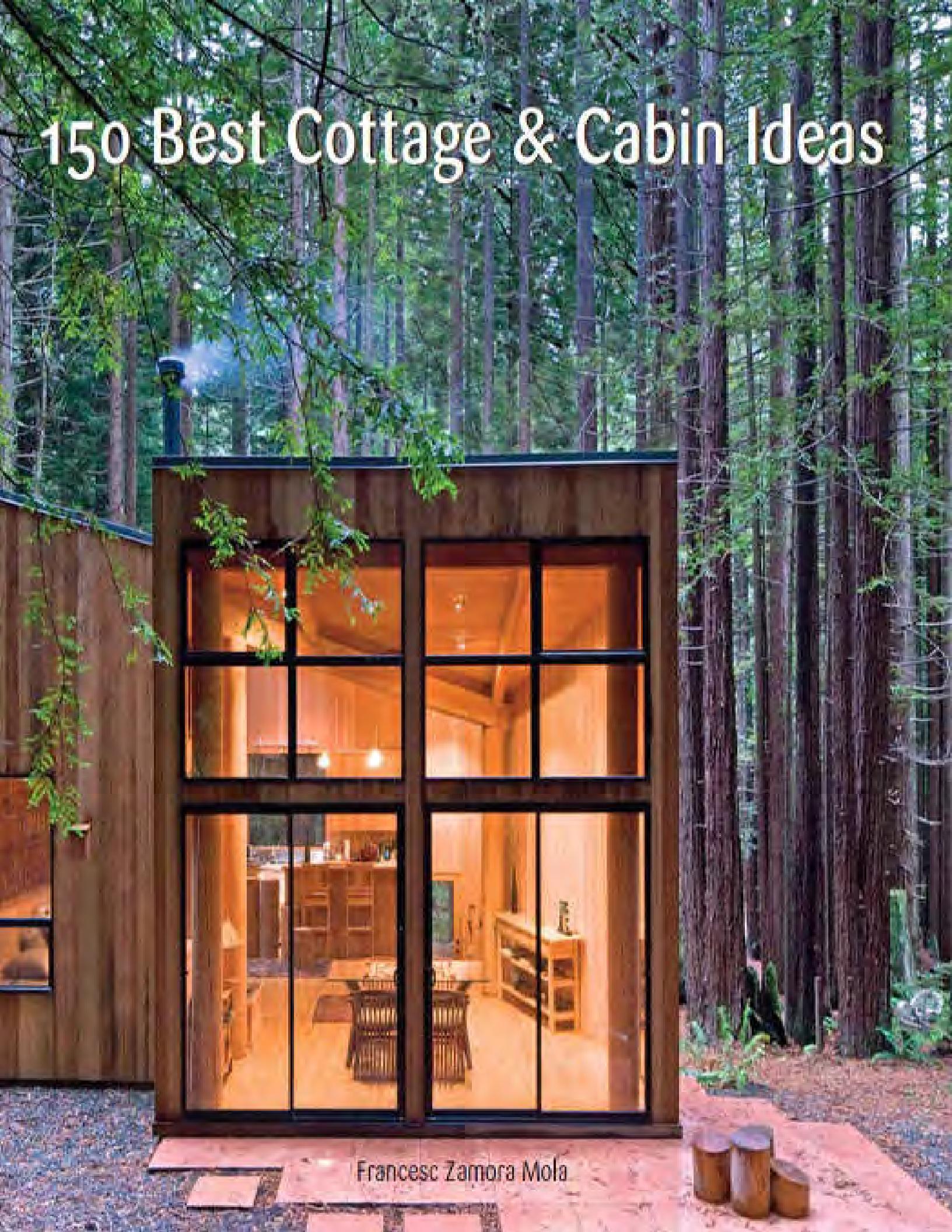


150 Best Cottage & Cabin Ideas

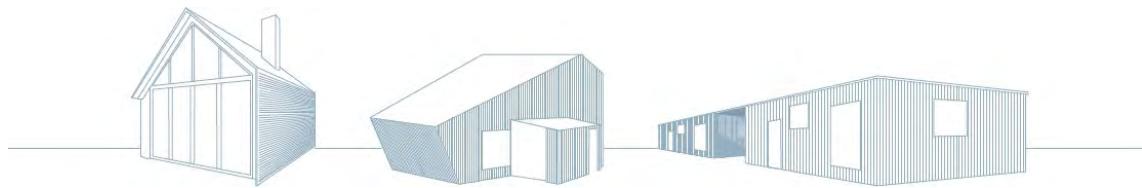


Francesc Zamora Mola

150 Best Cottage and Cabin Ideas

Francesc Zamora Mola





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INTRODUCTION

Notions of nature, remoteness, simplicity, and comfort come to mind when trying to describe the timeless allure of cabins and cottages. This suggests that, perhaps, the idea behind these constructions has to do with lifestyle as much as with architecture. Who hasn't dreamed of a small cabin in the woods or a cottage by a lake? We have all grown up with images of the rustic homes of pioneers and settlers of the American West. Their adventurous and rugged lifestyles appealed to all of us, in part because of their rustic log cabins and idyllic landscapes.

Truth is that those cabins and cottages originally fulfilled a need for protection from the elements and wild animals. Their compact scale and sturdy construction satisfied this necessity. With time, the old mountain architecture quickly got romanticized and cabins became stylish. The once simple and basic structures evolved to become fancy, spacious accommodations, opening the interior to the great outdoors.

What hasn't changed is the idea of a cabin or a cottage as a getaway. A getaway offers the chance to disconnect from daily stress, with only nature and the sky above as witnesses to our quiet time with just our thoughts and our most treasured essentials.

Almost everyone has fantasized of having a refuge near a lake or a stream, in the mountains or in a meadow, and far from anyone else. Quite a pleasant thought, and actually quite attainable. Remoteness seems to be a key ingredient of the getaway experience. But what draws people to spend time in remote locations? It's as if the farther we go from a metropolitan lifestyle, the freer and, consequently, the better we feel. Humans seem to have an innate tendency to seek a connection with nature as an antidote to the pressures of urban life.

The cottages and cabins featured in this volume honor the sites on which they are located and respect the ecological value of their environments. We can see in these projects how their design has been guided by a consideration of views—both immediate and distant—as well as by topography, sun angles, and wind currents and by their natural settings in general. The remoteness of some locations requires the use of basic sustainable strategies such as passive solar heating, shading, and off-grid power systems. Difficult access to the sites limits the choice of materials to locally available timber and stone, or premanufactured building parts. In this respect, modular construction can facilitate the building process and makes potential future expansions simple.

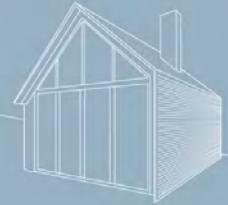
150 Best Cottage and Cabin Ideas pledges allegiance to a modest architectural archetype that recalls pioneers and settlers eking out a simple existence, with few to no commodities, using only the locally available natural resources, and felling trees that were then stacked and

notched together to create simple shelters. These constructions are symbols of retreat, refuge, and a more or less rugged, independent lifestyle. The enduring style of the cabin or cottage is that of a sturdy, solid shelter from the elements. Their simplicity seems to prevail in modern constructions and so do their predominant features: exposed-beam ceilings, built-in furnishings, and large, open floor plans.

Many of these building designs take after the gable and shed roof traditional construction. Others take a modern twist on the established building typologies. The importance of the roof as a basic architectural feature has served to organize the contents of this book under three categories: Gabled, Hipped, and Pyramid Roofs; Shed and Saltbox Roofs; and Flat and Custom Roofs. Roofs speak to us of shelter. Their basic forms have come down to us unchanged through ages. Their silhouettes are still unmistakable in today's modern home. From the outside, a roof defines the look of a home; from the inside, it gives form to the spaces that it shelters.

Today's cottages and cabins are often spacious and comfortable, and they often have more than one floor, with enough room to accommodate visitors. The interior is open and flexible combining various functions. They are also likely to include fully equipped kitchens, whirlpool tubs, saunas, and other luxuries. Large windows and doors blur the distinction between interior and exterior. They face the surrounding landscape, making nature appear as part of the interior and allowing interior activities to spill out onto surrounding terraces.

Perhaps it's not so much about vacationing, but about escaping to a place with a minimum of interference, a refuge from daily stresses. In a cabin away from the urban environment, we can return to living at least a part of our time in a more natural way.



Gabled, Hipped, and Pyramid Roofs



Country House in Colorado

2,766 sq ft

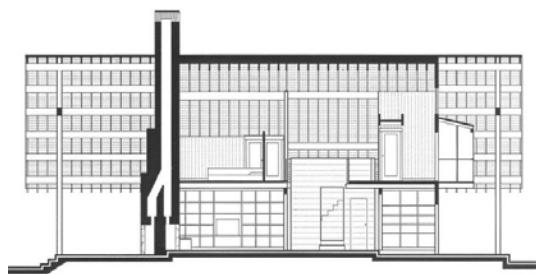
Turnbull Griffin

Haesloop Architects

Walden, Colorado, United States

© David Wakely Photography

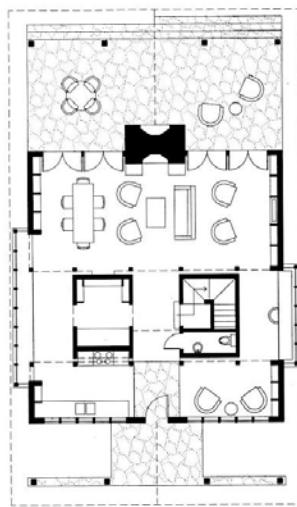
The natural setting was clearly in mind when the architects designed this ranch-style house, using wood and stone to blend in with the beauty of the landscape. The selection of materials pairs with the archetypal house shape to give the building a homey appeal and a strong sense of place. All aspects of the architecture seen from the outside—such as shapes and proportions, as well as materials and finishes that are used to articulate the surfaces—give the interior definition.



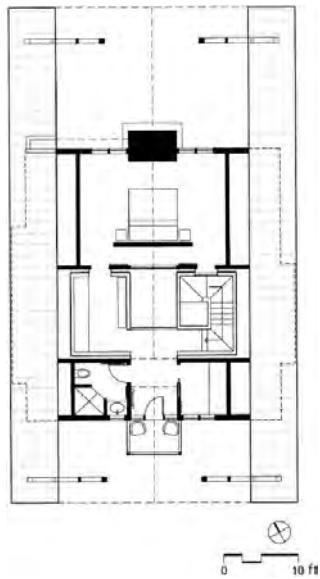
North-facing section



East-facing section



Ground floor plan



Second floor plan



The simple stone wall construction and gable roof put the cabin in harmony with its surroundings, which in turn complement the construction to make it a dream mountain retreat.



A large porch with a double-sided stone fireplace and exposed roof rafters provides ample room for a daytime gathering during good weather or for a quiet time at dusk.



The interior is compact, yet addresses the expansive scale of the landscape with large windows flanking the double-sided fireplace.

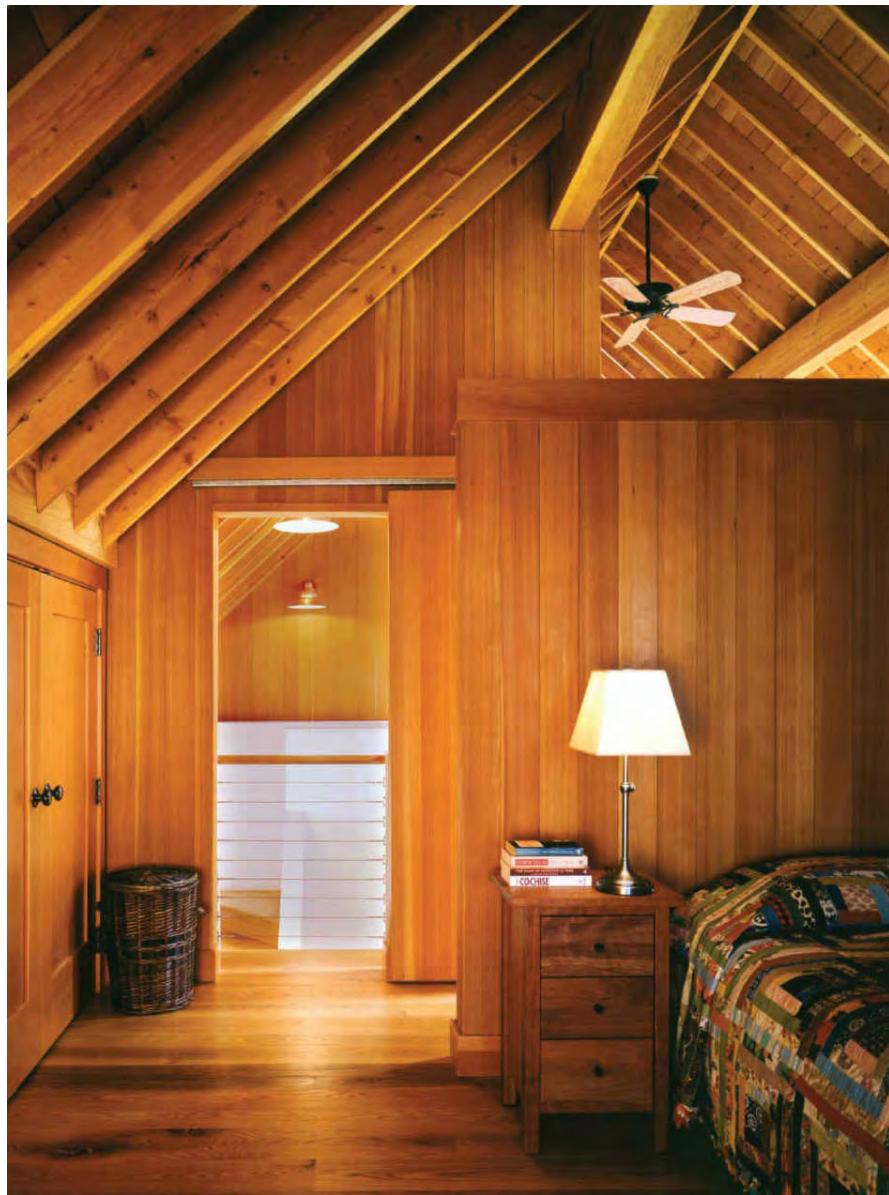
001

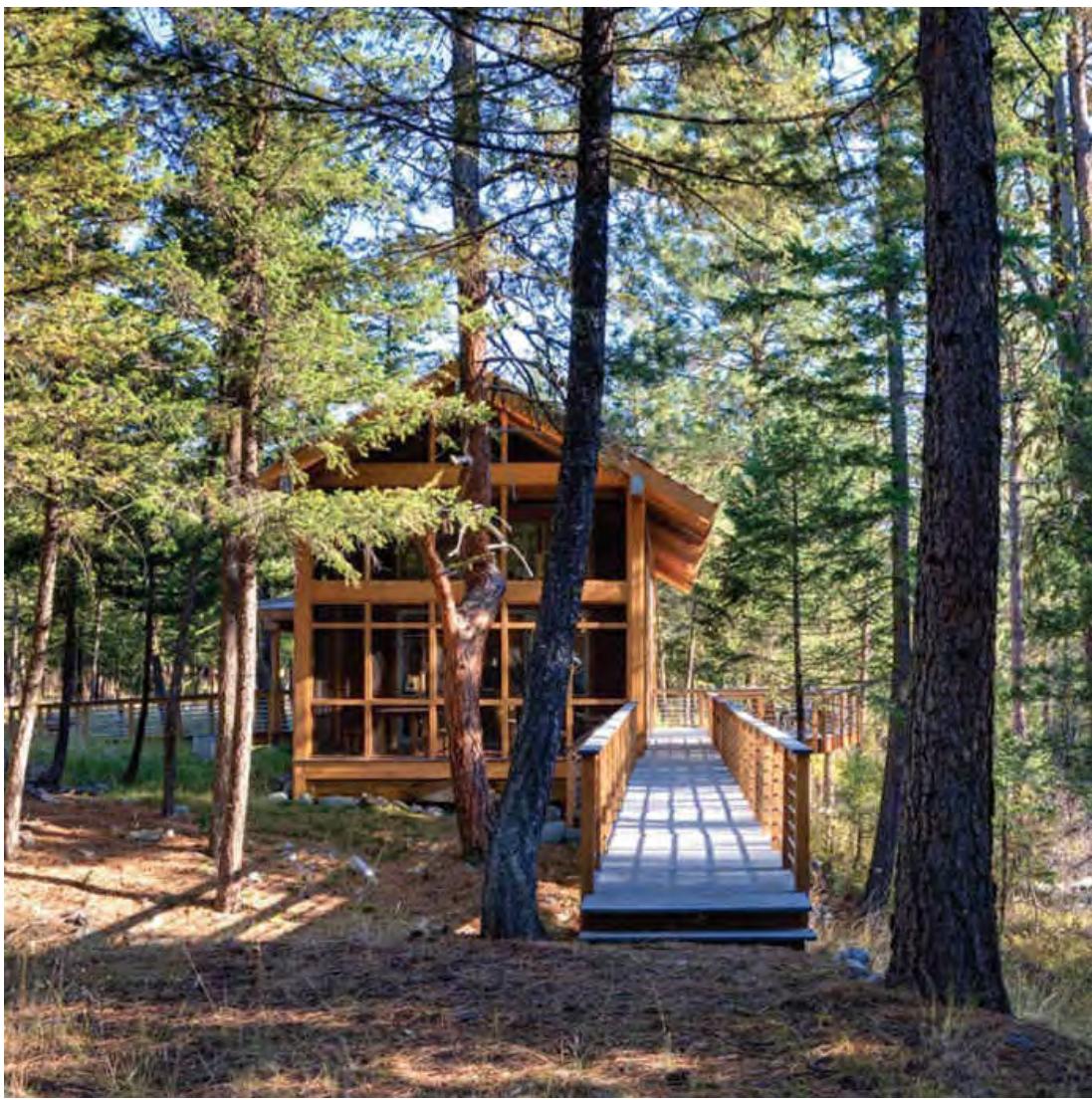
One way of integrating built-in furniture into the overall design of a room is to borrow architectural features of the space, for instance, matching shapes and proportions, repeating trim details, and using similar materials.



002

Enhance the unique architectural character of a building by focusing on its shape. This is achieved by using a limited selection of materials and sparse furnishings.





Foster Loop Cabin

1,650 sq ft

Balance Associates Architects

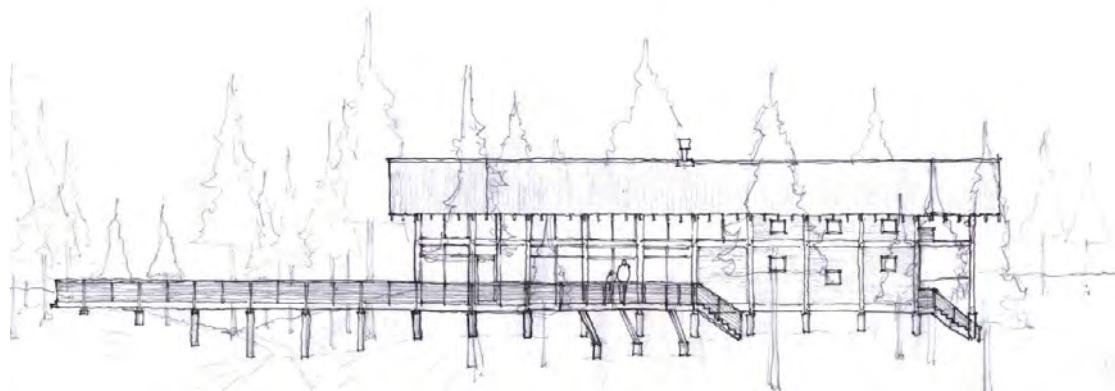
Methow Valley, Washington, United States

© Steve Keating

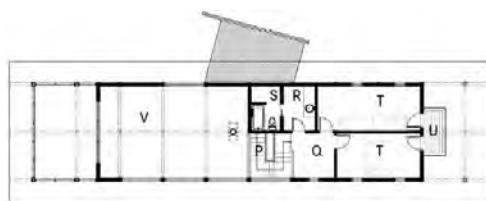
The area where this cabin is located was enjoyed as a campground by a family for many years, before it became the site for their year-round getaway. The cabin stands on concrete piers and is approached via an elevated walkway through towering trees, minimizing environmental impact. Its timber-frame design is expressed in the exterior and the interior, achieving a barn-like feel with contemporary details.



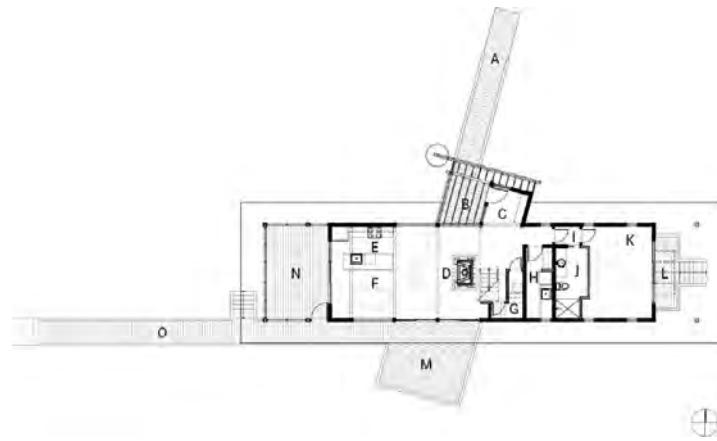
Site plan



Southwest elevation



Upper floor plan



Main floor plan

- A. Entry walk
- B. Entry porch
- C. Entry
- D. Living area
- E. Kitchen
- F. Dining area
- G. Storage
- H. Utility room
- I. Hall
- J. Master bathroom
- K. Master bedroom
- L. Master deck
- M. Cantilever deck
- N. Screen porch
- O. Foot bridge
- P. Stair
- Q. Loft
- R. Sink room
- S. Shower room
- T. Bedroom
- U. Deck
- V. Open to below

The entry opens-up to a one-and-a-half-story living space and kitchen organized around a centrally located fireplace and staircase. This staircase leads to “tent-like” bedrooms with low walls on the second floor.

003

Raising a structure on posts or piers can minimize ground disturbance and protect against storm-water flooding.





Both ends of the residence have indoor-outdoor spaces. All work together to provide natural transitions from the wooded setting to a welcoming interior.



004

An exposed glulam roof frame blends construction technology and rustic barn-style charm. Glulam construction can support large spans, has a superior fire performance, and delivers a good strength-to-weight ratio.





Goat Peak Cabin

1,160 sq ft

Lawrence Architecture

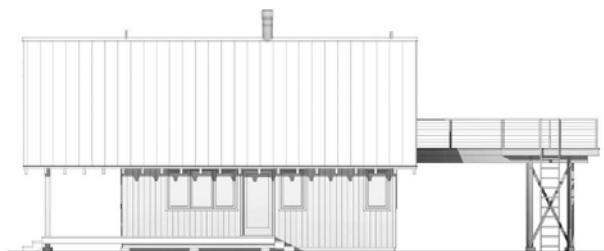
Cascade Mountains, Washington, United States

© Benjamin Schneider

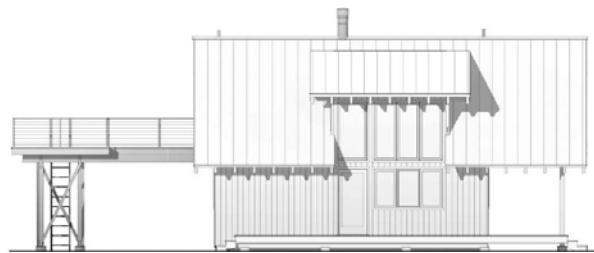
This small cabin with a large porch combines tradition with key contemporary accents. Its prominent gable roof and deep overhangs are a powerful representation of the idea of a shelter, one that humans have sought through history to satisfy a need for protection. Built in a clearing, the cabin is backed by a forest, which acts as a shield against the wind. The overall design, which translates into a graceful harmonization of form and material with the natural setting, is simple proof that our love affair with the archetypal pitched roof cabin endures.



Site plan



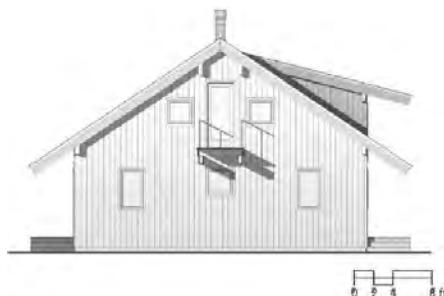
South elevation



North elevation



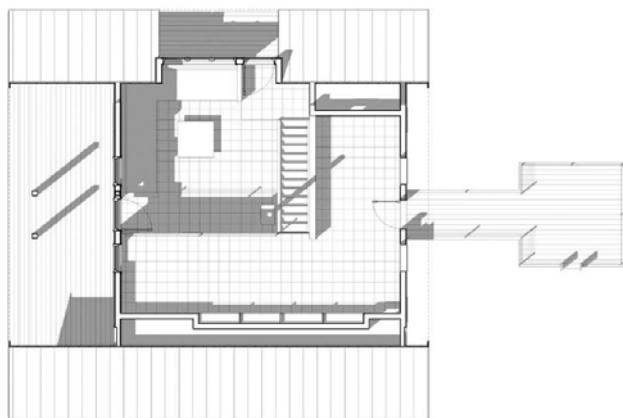
West elevation



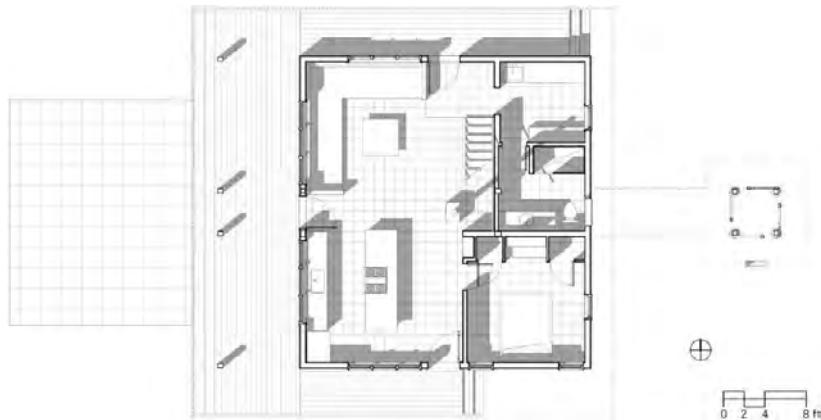
East elevation



The gable roof is framed with glulam and has large overhangs to shelter the building from the hot summers and cold, snowy winters. The main space features a shed dormer, which offers scenic views.



Second floor plan



Ground floor plan

005

The popular pot bellied metal stove can stand anywhere as long as the flue can run up and out. Not only does such a stove capture attention, it's also efficient, releasing more heat than masonry hearths.



006

Mezzanines are best tucked under soaring ceilings. This extra level helps solve space issues while extending visual reach.





The vertically open living room gains a focal point through the solid, wooden banquette. Wood-framed windows at various heights and roof beams extend the woody palette to all points in the room. The result: design unity and balance.



Bunny Lane

284 sq ft

Heliotrope Architects

San Juan Islands, Washington, United States

© Sean Airhart

The design of this cabin responds to the desire of the occupants to explore a Northwest island

vernacular style for their retreat by a lake—a look and feel that would fit comfortably and timelessly on an island the owners have visited regularly for many years. The design integrates a gable roof construction that evokes a typical island farmhouse. It opens up into a contemporary single-story, open-plan living area with decks, allowing for outdoor leisure.



Second floor plan



Ground floor plan



Second floor plan



The shed-like structure houses the living area, while the gable roof construction contains bedrooms, bathrooms, and utility spaces. The step-back form allows all upstairs bedrooms a water view.

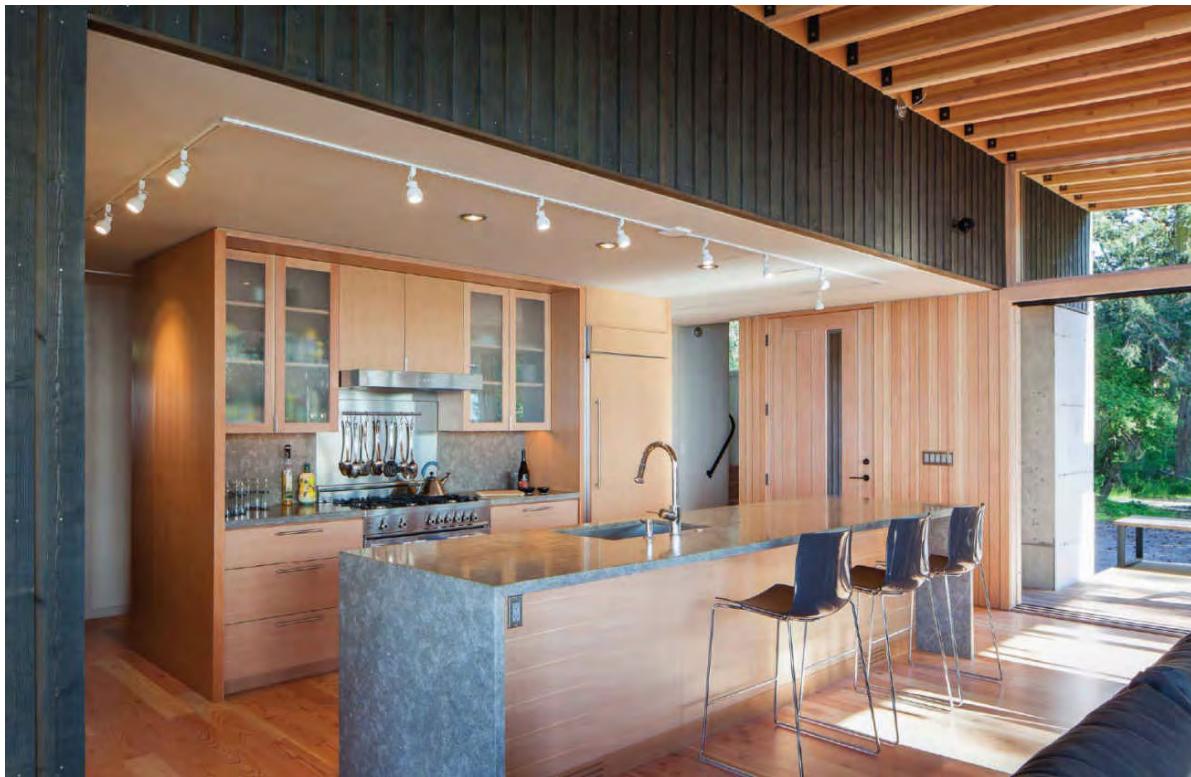
Large furniture can define different areas without altering the proportions of a room and maintaining the feeling of spaciousness. Choose low furniture to enhance an open feeling.



008

Enjoy the views all year round with seating arrangements along a wall with big windows. To prevent sunlight damage to furniture and fabrics, use low-E glass to limit the amount of UV rays passing through the windows.





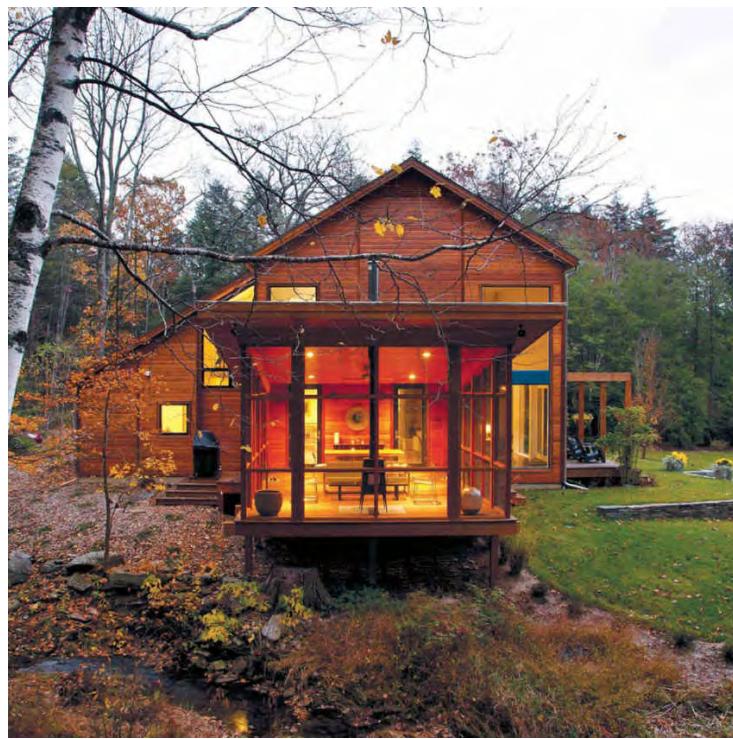
Dominant materials include vertical cedar siding; Douglas fir-framing details, including doors and windows; locally milled Douglas fir floors; vertical grain-fir veneer cabinetry; and limestone countertops.



The brightly lit staircase connects two different atmospheres: the woodsy, cozy single-story open living area and the cool, comfortable sleeping quarters on the second level of the gable-roof construction.



A seating area at the second-floor landing serves as a quiet nook for reading or gazing out the window. This small but convenient space off the bedrooms uses the guardrail as an opportunity for shelving and adds storage space under the banquette.



Bug Acres of Woodstock

2,700 sq ft

CWB Architects

Woodstock, New York, United States

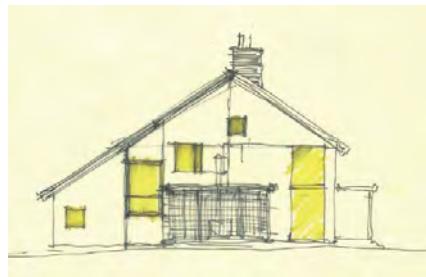
© Rachael L. Stollar

Situated in a wooded 6.8-acre parcel next to a stream, this modern farmhouse is the result of

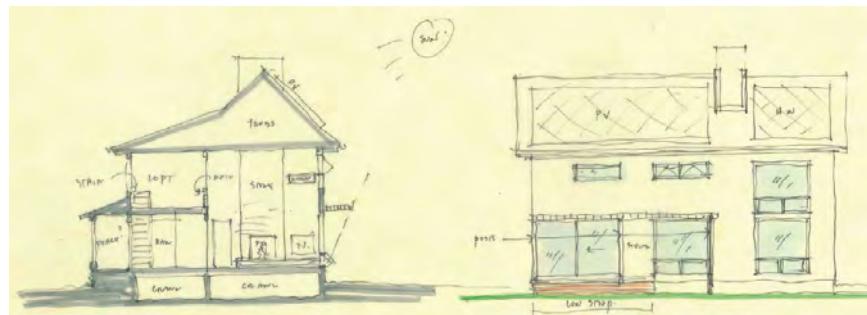
an extensive remodel and extension of an existing 400-square-foot cottage. The redesign strengthens the connection between interior and exterior by means of windows of different sizes and proportions that draw one's attention to natural wetlands and rock outcroppings across the nearby stream.



Preliminary site plan sketch

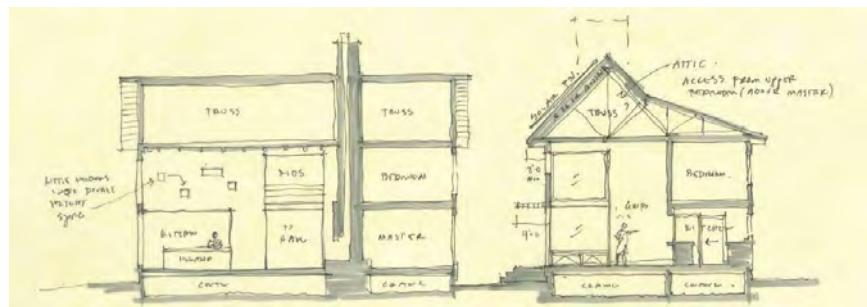


Preliminary west (entry) elevation



Preliminary building section looking east

Preliminary south elevation



Preliminary building section looking north

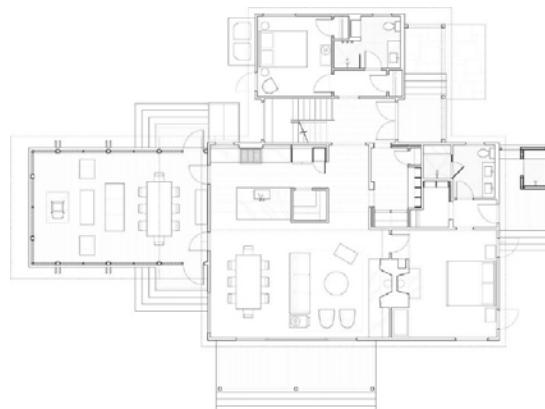
Preliminary building section looking west

009

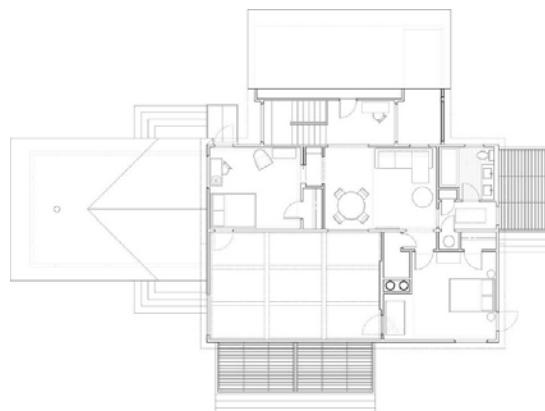
Outdoor lighting is an important decorative and functional element. It can be used to illuminate paths, create focal points in the landscape around the home, and provide a sense of security.



Preliminary design sketch



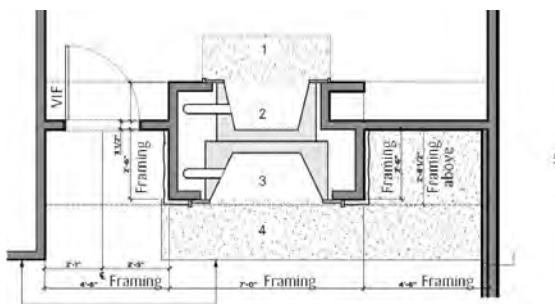
Ground floor plan



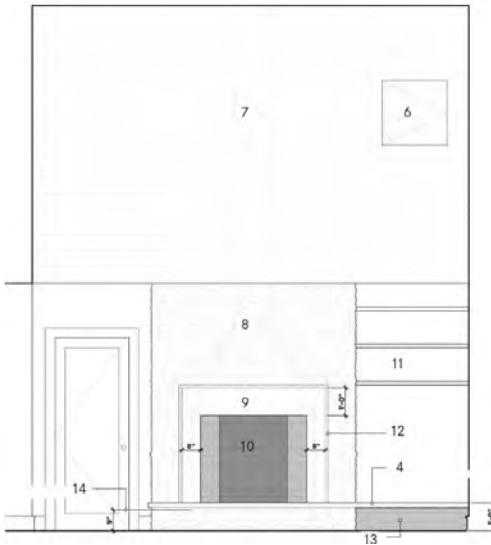
Second floor plan

The remodel and extension transformed the modest two-bedroom, one-bathroom cottage into a stunning four-bedroom home.

You can strengthen the connection between an interior space and the outdoors by using colors and patterns inspired by the natural world, natural materials such as stone and wood, and outdoor furniture.



Align front of hearth with finished gypsum wallboard 12



Family room fireplace. Plan and elevation

1. Flush hearth: $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick bluestone slab, flamed finish
2. 36" Isokern Standard fireplace
3. 48" Isokern Magnum fireplace
4. Raised hearth: 2" thick bluestone slab, flamed finish
5. Finished face of the wall furred in 2" + $\frac{1}{2}$ " plywood to conceal structural steel posts
6. Hatch to bedroom hidden within plank wall
7. Rough-sawn 1 x 4 paint grade pine planking at upper sections of wall
8. Dry stack thin veneer bluestone
9. Bluestone slab surround flamed finish
10. Firebox for 48" Isokern Magnum modular masonry fireplace
11. Open painted wood shelves
12. 1" x $3\frac{1}{2}$ " bluestone back band around perimeter of slab surround
13. Open below for wood storage: back and side lined with bluestone slab
14. Top of foundation for living room fireplace unit

011

The mountain cabin represents an archetypal form and a symbol of refuge and shelter from the elements. This concept is strongly anchored by a fireplace, generally made of stone, which also ties the construction to its setting.



012

One-wall kitchens with islands are similar to galley kitchens, when it comes to traffic and work. They allow for an efficient workflow between the sink, fridge, and stove.



013

Wood-burning stoves are not exclusive to rustic cabins. They have found their way into many modern homes. New advances in technology make these stoves burn more efficiently and cleaner.



014

Colors, patterns, and textures come together to create a well-balanced and harmonious space. Patterns and prints should be selected according to the size and proportions of the room they are intended for.







Creekside Cabin

1,275 sq ft

Amy A. Alper, Architect

Calistoga, California, United States

© Eric Rorer

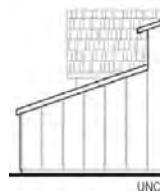
This 1920s shingle-style cabin is beautifully situated among shady firs and redwoods. Its original layout, however, precluded views to a nearby boulder-strewn creek. Stringent regulations limited new construction to only thirty-three percent more than the original structure's footprint. Replacing an underutilized deck presented the opportunity to create a new double-height living room to wrap the original exterior. The room's glass walls showcase views of the swirling waters below.



The original cabin exterior is preserved and featured extension of the existing roofline, while the hallway is de



East elevation



North elevation



Shed and Saltbox Roofs



Hammer Cabin

1,500 sq ft

Uptic Studios

Lake Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, United States

© Larry Conboy Photography

Camp Hammer is located on a scenic hillside overlooking Lake Coeur d'Alene, part of the Idaho Panhandle. The building's site starts at the edge of the forest and ends with a 125-foot drop to the lake. While the lot offers stunning views, it's long and narrow, with more than half of the land unsuitable for construction. These restrictions, in conjunction with the owner's desire for a minimal footprint, required a design that would maximize efficiency of the site and the interior spaces.

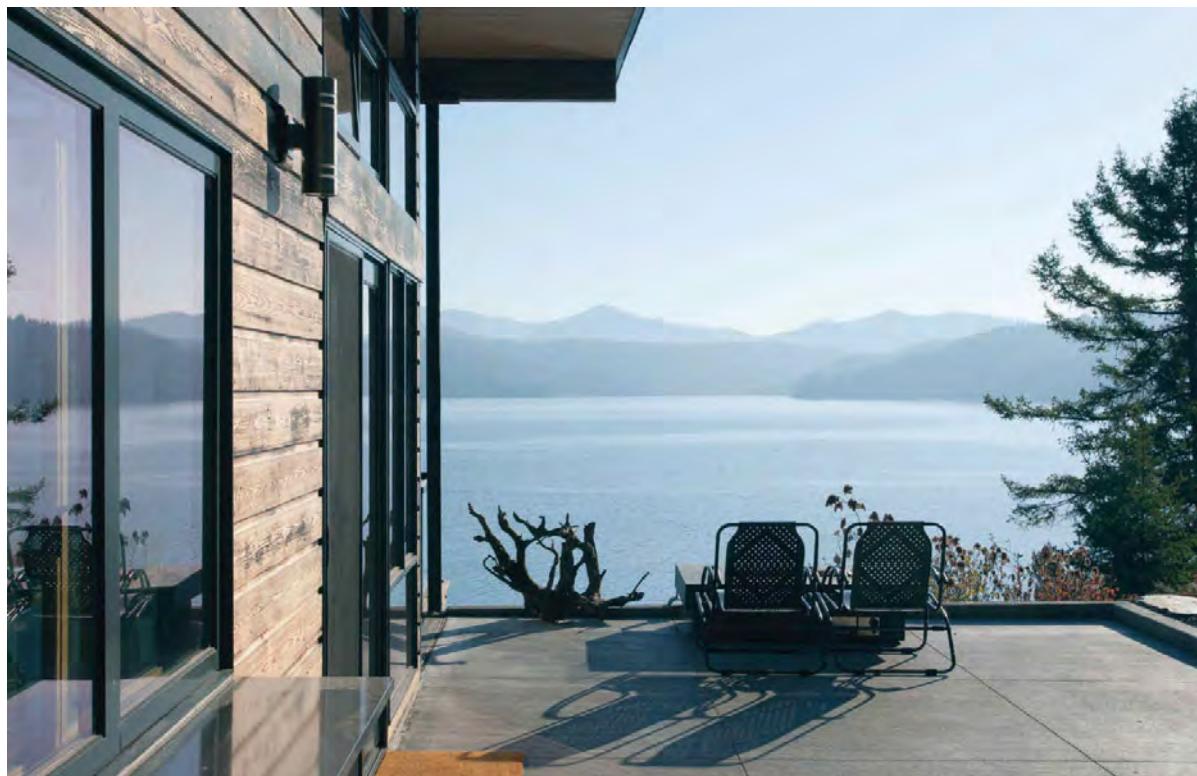
043

Spaces outside generally need protection from the wind and the sun. Sheltering devices such as a fence and a lean-to roof can extend the space's outdoor season.



044

Higher elevations may benefit from long, unobstructed views, but they are also more exposed to the elements. When planning where to build, consider the region's climate as well as the sun exposure and the wind patterns.



Lower floor plan

- A. Sunk room
- B. Mechanical room
- C. Living room
- D. Washer/dryer
- E. Guest bathroom
- F. Guest bedroom
- G. Foyer
- H. Powder room
- I. Master bathroom
- J. Walk-in closet

- K. Master bedroom
- L. Deck
- M. Great room
- N. Patio
- O. Bar
- P. Kitchen
- Q. Pantry



Upper floor plan

The cabin's design approach is translated into a language that reflects the harsh environmental conditions of the region and the topography of the site.

045

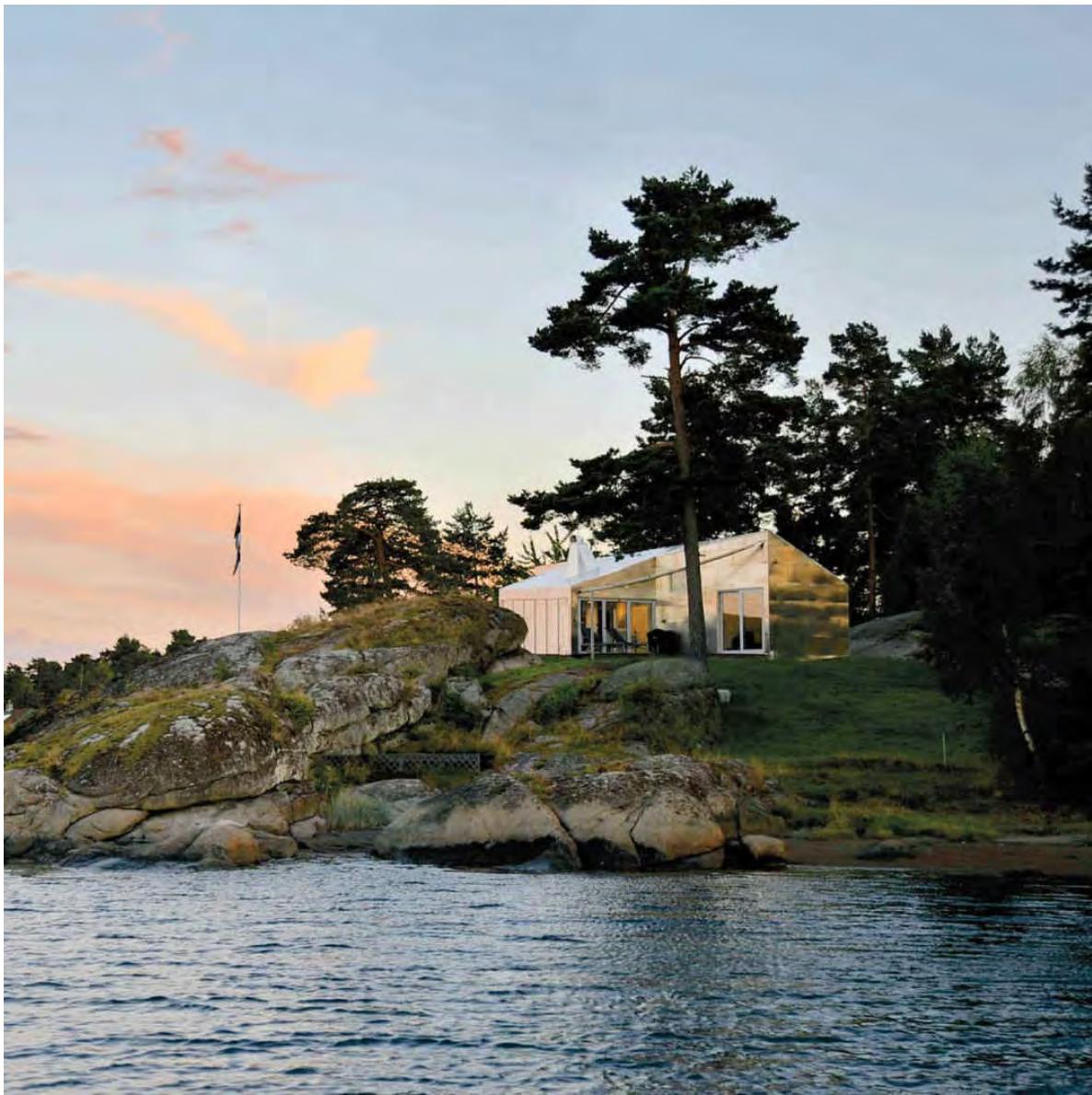
Industrial finishes such as concrete floors, plywood paneling, and steel details can be left unfinished, letting them age naturally over time to acquire a patina that harmonizes with a natural setting.

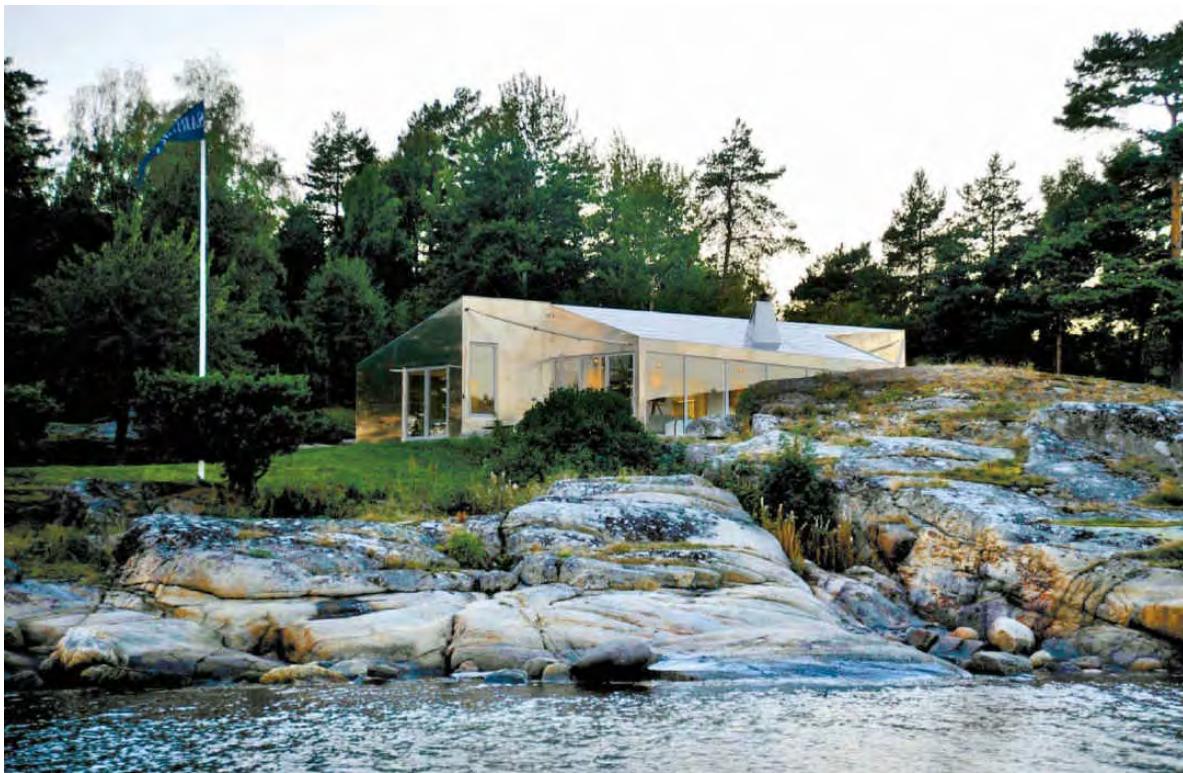


046

An efficient kitchen is just as desirable in a cabin as it is in a regular residence. The key is to facilitate tasks so that leisure can be a priority. But don't disregard styling! It's likely that your cabin's kitchen will be visible from the main room.







Aluminum Cabin

969 sq ft

Jarmund/Vigsnaes AS Arkitekter

Vestfold, Norway

© Nils, Petter Dale

Situated in a beautiful archipelago, this eye-catching waterside cabin replaces a dilapidated and impractical structure. The restrictive planning and zoning regulations of the area dictated the scale and size of the new building. The design adapts to the specifics of the site and the climate conditions. Its irregular shape and varied elevations almost seem to echo the surrounding rocky outcrops. The distinctive exterior aluminum cladding catches light and reflects the changing weather conditions, helping to erase the boundaries between a built structure and its setting.



The cabin merges with the surroundings thanks to its metallic cladding, which reflects the colors and the light through the day and seasons.

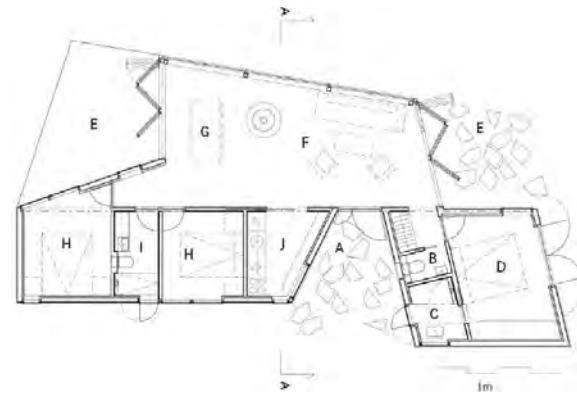
047

Coastal environments require great attention to moisture-management strategies. Corrosion-resistant materials and finishes—especially those applied to the outside of a building—are critical to minimize moisture damage.



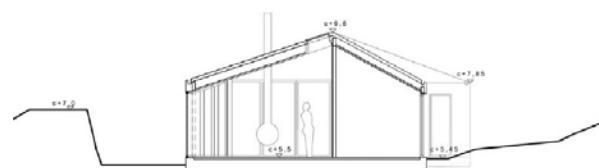


Site plan



Floor plan

- A. Entry
- B. Toilet
- C. Master bathroom
- D. Master bedroom
- E. Terrace
- F. Living area
- G. Dining area
- H. Bedroom
- I. Bathroom
- J. Kitchen



Section A-A

If you don't want a permanent overhang in your outdoor space, a simple shade sail is an effective solution. Don't forget to consider the angle of the sun and where the shadow will be.





The layout of the Aluminum Cabin features three separate modules: the living area, the master suite, and the bedrooms and kitchen module. They are articulated by the entry and two terraces fitted with temporary shading devices.

049

In the living area, opposite walls fold open to create a semiopen space that facilitates cross ventilation.





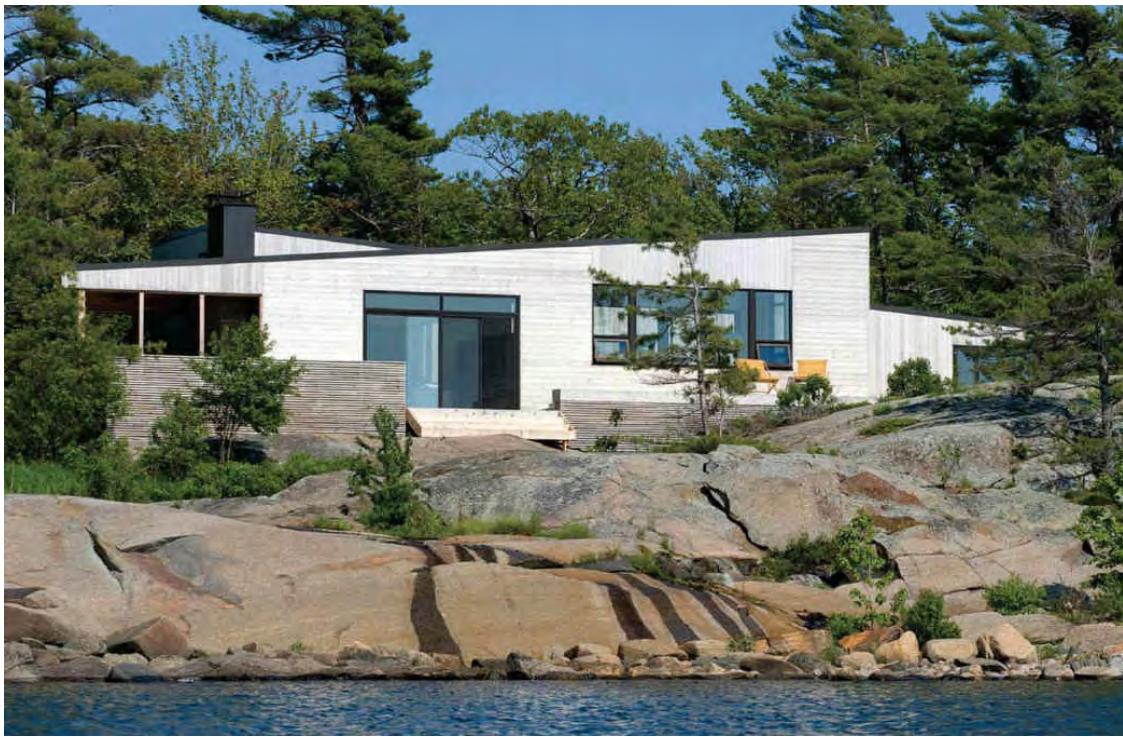
The sparsely furnished living area and the selection of natural colors pair with the large spans of glass. This minimalistic design allows the natural setting to be the focus of anybody in the room.

050

The soothing effect of white surfaces and airy feel that openings provide make a living space serene and cool.







SHIFT Cottage

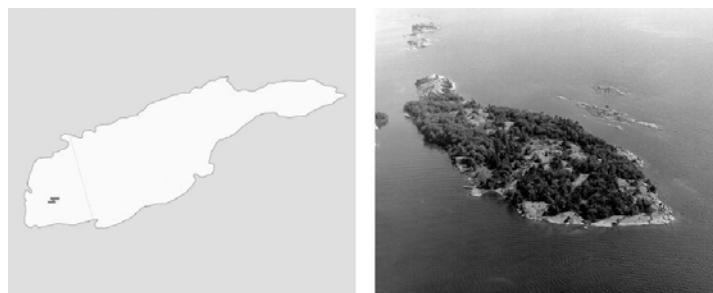
2,000 sq ft

superkül

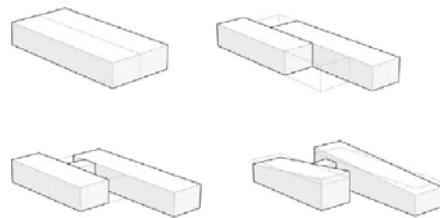
Georgian Bay, Ontario, Canada

© Tom Arban

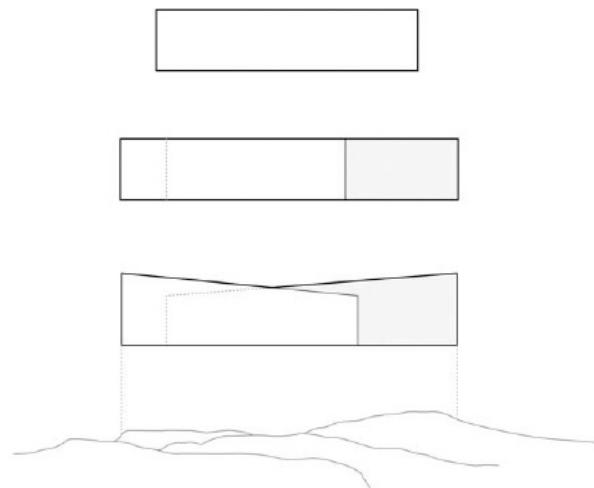
The site for SHIFT Cottage was chosen for its topography and orientation. Its location between a forested area and a rocky outcropping protects the cabin from the winds off a nearby lake. The low profile of the construction and its shape were designed so as not to compete with the surrounding landscape, but rather to highlight its unique beauty. A series of stepped decks gird the structure, easing its integration into the natural setting while facilitating access.



Site diagram



Massing diagram



Emplacement diagram



Site plan



Site images



East elevation



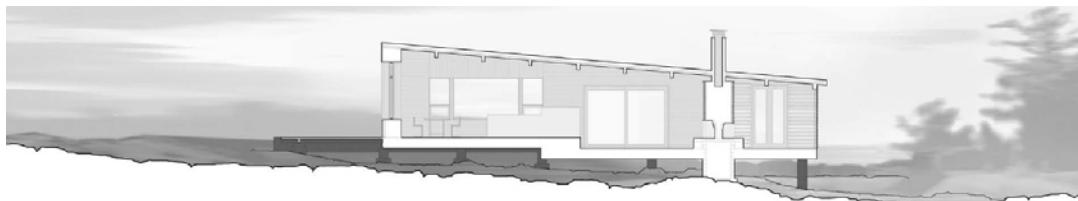
North elevation



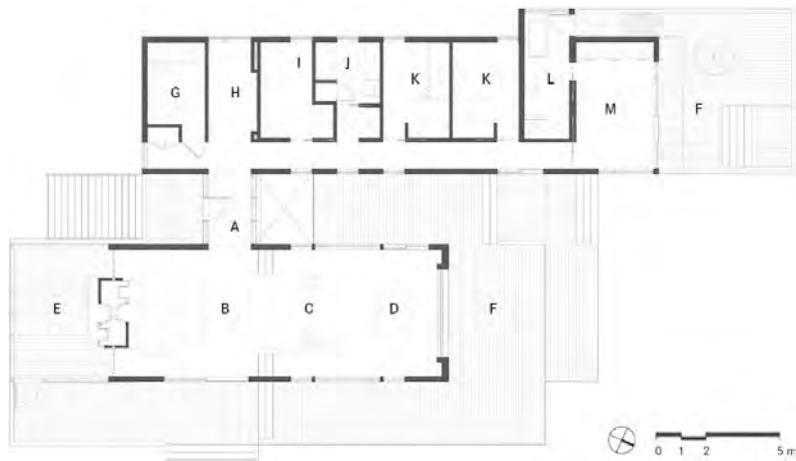
West elevation

051

Let natural features guide your design to create a building that is respectful to the environment. Also take into consideration sun exposure, prevailing winds, and other meteorological variables that could affect the design.



East-West section



Floor plan

- A. Entry
- B. Living room
- C. Kitchen
- D. Dining area
- E. Screened outdoor terrace
- F. Outdoor terrace
- G. Utility
- H. Study
- I. Kids' bedroom
- J. Bathroom
- K. Bedroom
- L. Master bathroom
- M. Master bedroom





The limited selection of materials, which include cedar cladding, metal roofing, and stone, reinforces the simplicity of the building, while the horizontal cedar siding, both on the exterior and the interior, emphasizes the low proportions.

052

Position buildings and orient rooms strategically in order to frame views and take full advantage of sun exposure.





All the rooms have access to outdoor terraces facing different directions, allowing comfortable daytime activities in an area that is otherwise characterized by a rough terrain.



Decatur Cabin

1,200 sq ft

Balance Associates Architects

Decatur Island, Washington, United States

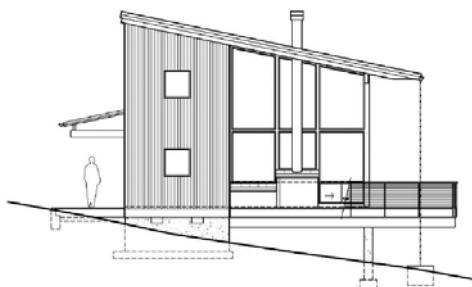
© Steve Keating

This cabin is designed as two contrasting forms, one transparent, and the other solid. One form is a cantilevering glass box containing the living area, which is conceived as a sheltered

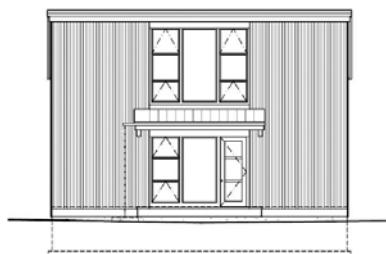
porch that opens to a large deck wrapping around three sides. The solid two-story rectangular form contains the bedrooms and service areas. A large shed roof ties the two forms together and extends over the deck for protection from the elements.



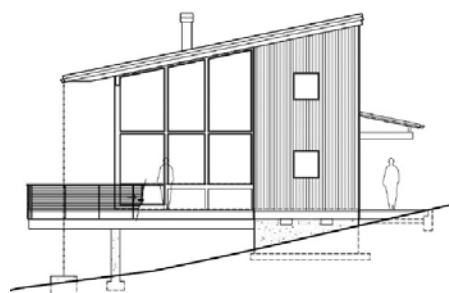
North elevation



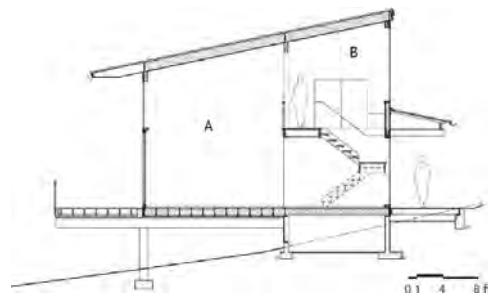
East elevation



South elevation



West elevation

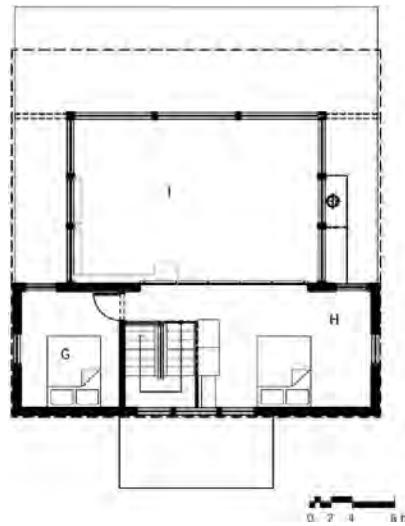


Section

- A. Living room
- B. Bedroom



Main floor plan



Upper floor plan

- A. Entry
- B. Kitchen
- C. Dining area
- D. Living area
- E. Utility room

- F. Bathroom
- G. Bedroom
- H. Master bedroom
- I. Open to below

The living area is encased by glass walls on three sides. The fourth side is one wall of the wood-clad two-story rectangular form. This physical connection emphasizes the different spatial qualities of the two forms.

053

Deep overhangs can increase the lifespan of any cladding, protecting walls from severe rain and snow, as well as from UV rays.



054

High-efficiency windows can help you reduce energy use and costs. Low-E glass is one of the most widely used building material because of its insulating properties, which offer

thermal control during hot and cold weather.



The fireplace is set into the glass wall. Far from being obtrusive, it allows those sitting in the room to enjoy the outdoor view.



Design sketch



The master bedroom on the upper floor overlooks the living area on the main level. Floor-to-ceiling windows bring the landscape right into the bedroom.



Kiss House

3,533 sq ft

LAZOR OFFICE | FlatPak

Ontario, Canada

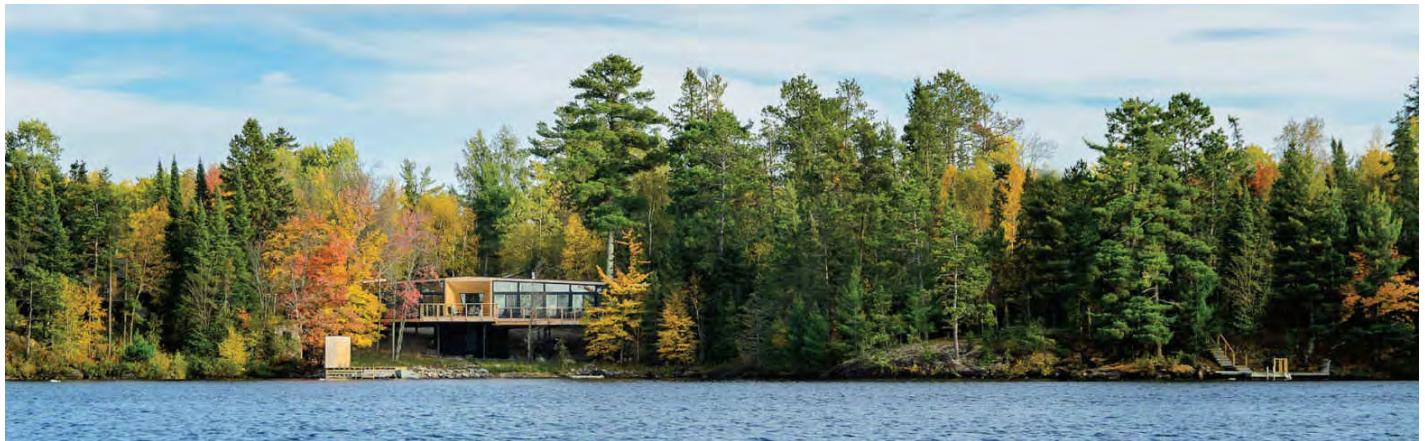
© Peter VonDeLinde

Kiss House is a custom-built modular, with the structure's two sections fabricated in a workshop to be ninety-five percent complete. Once transported to the site, the modules were placed so they delicately touch—or “kiss”—at one corner to form a V. A series of decks articulate the modules while establishing a dialog with the irregular site features. The structure's V shape forms an open-arm gesture, inviting all who visit to take in the landscape,

including a nearby lake.

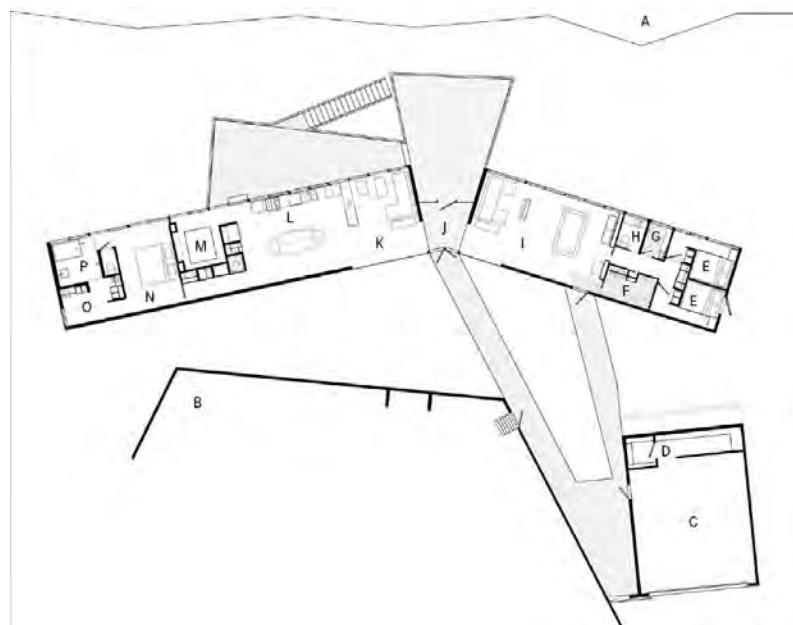
055

Regulations and restrictions that protect wetlands, lakes, and rivers can limit the construction of a new getaway or the modification of an existing one.



056

Rules and standards regarding development at water's edge can limit tree removal as well as the type of vegetation that can be planted.



Floor plan

- A. Lake shore
- B. Vegetable garden
- C. Garage

- D. Storage
- E. Bedroom
- F. Mudroom
- G. Shower
- H. Toilet
- I. Living room
- J. Breezeway
- K. Lounge
- L. Kitchen
- M. Den
- N. Master bedroom
- O. Walk-in closet
- P. Master bathroom

The construction method that was used in the construction of the Kiss House differs from the usual stacking and sealing of module joints that one typically sees in prefabs.

057

Decks are transitional spaces that link the built environment of a home and the rough natural elements. They allow the expansion of an interior space, creating a safer outdoor environment.





058

Rough, sloping terrains may determine the shape of your deck. It can be a single flat platform or various segments at different heights to accommodate the ground's unevenness.

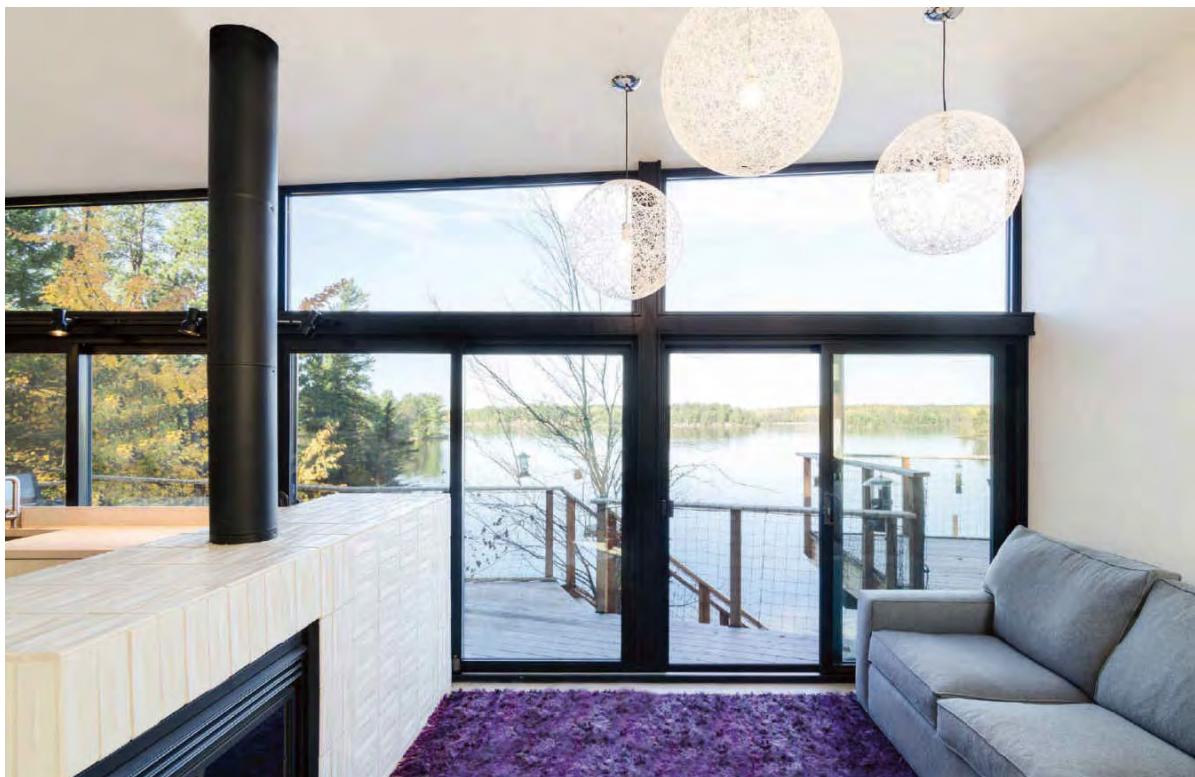




The raised decks and bridges connecting the different modules work their way around rock outcroppings to better integrate the construction into the natural context, while emphasizing its beauty.

059

Getaways in remote locations call for durable and easy-to-maintain furnishings. Remember that a vacation home is for socializing and relaxing, not continual cleaning.





060

Since privacy might not be an issue in a remote place, every room can have a window to strengthen the nature experience.





Eagle Harbor Cabin

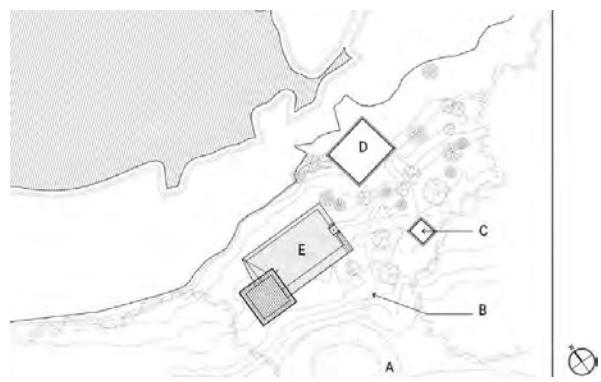
2,000 sq ft

FINNE Architects

Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States

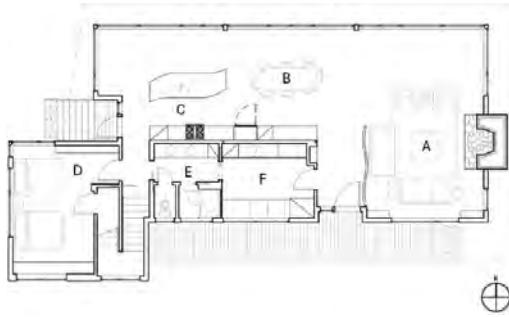
© Eric Hausman

The cabin is located in a wooded area near a lake, and the structure cantilevers out toward the water with a 40-foot-long glass wall facing spectacular views. The construction is composed of two simple sections: a large open living/dining/kitchen space with an exposed timber ceiling structure and a two-story “bedroom tower.” The exterior’s corrugated metal cladding is complemented by a chimney made of Montana ledgestone.



Site plan

- A. Driveway
- B. Walking path
- C. Existing wood shed
- D. Existing cabin
- E. New cabin



Main level floor plan

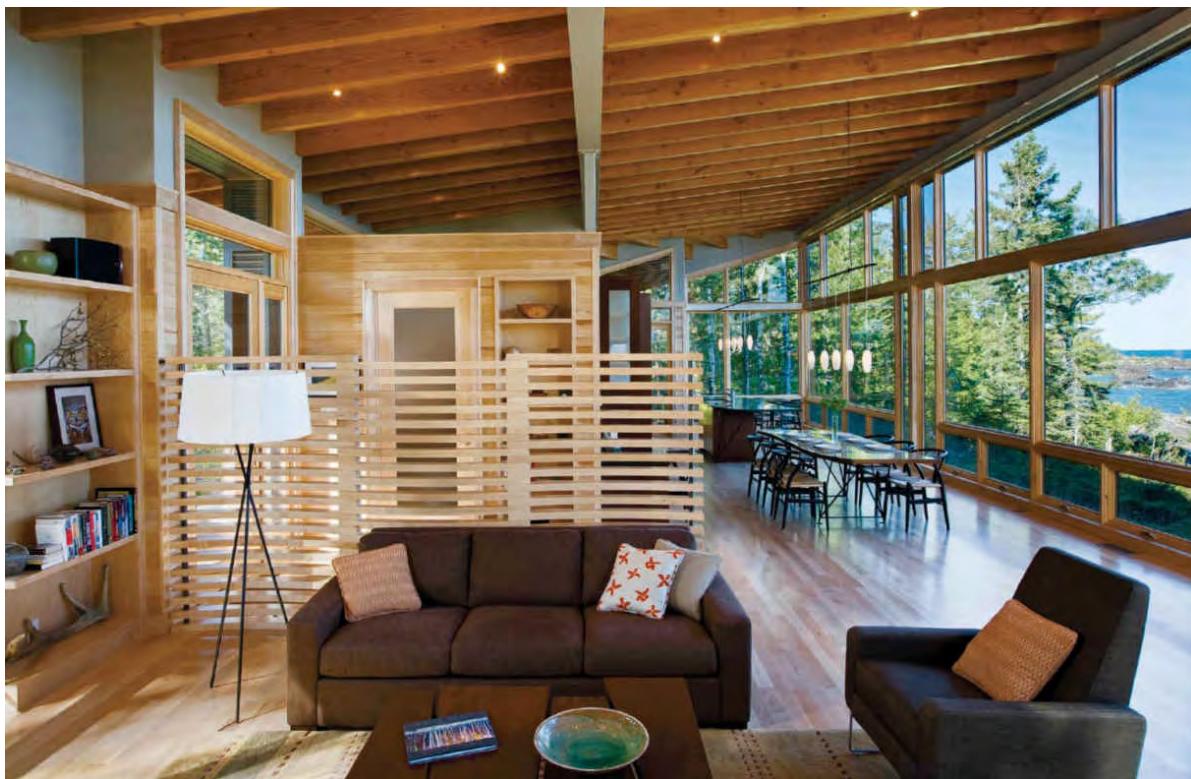
- A. Living area
- B. Dining area
- C. Kitchen
- D. Bedroom
- E. Bathroom
- F. Laundry room
- G. Master bedroom
- H. Cabin roof below



Master bedroom floor plan



The cabin is built on a concrete foundation, which protects the floor from ground shifts caused by freezes and thaws. Large windows provide solar heat gain during the winter, and deep overhangs offer protection from snow and sun.

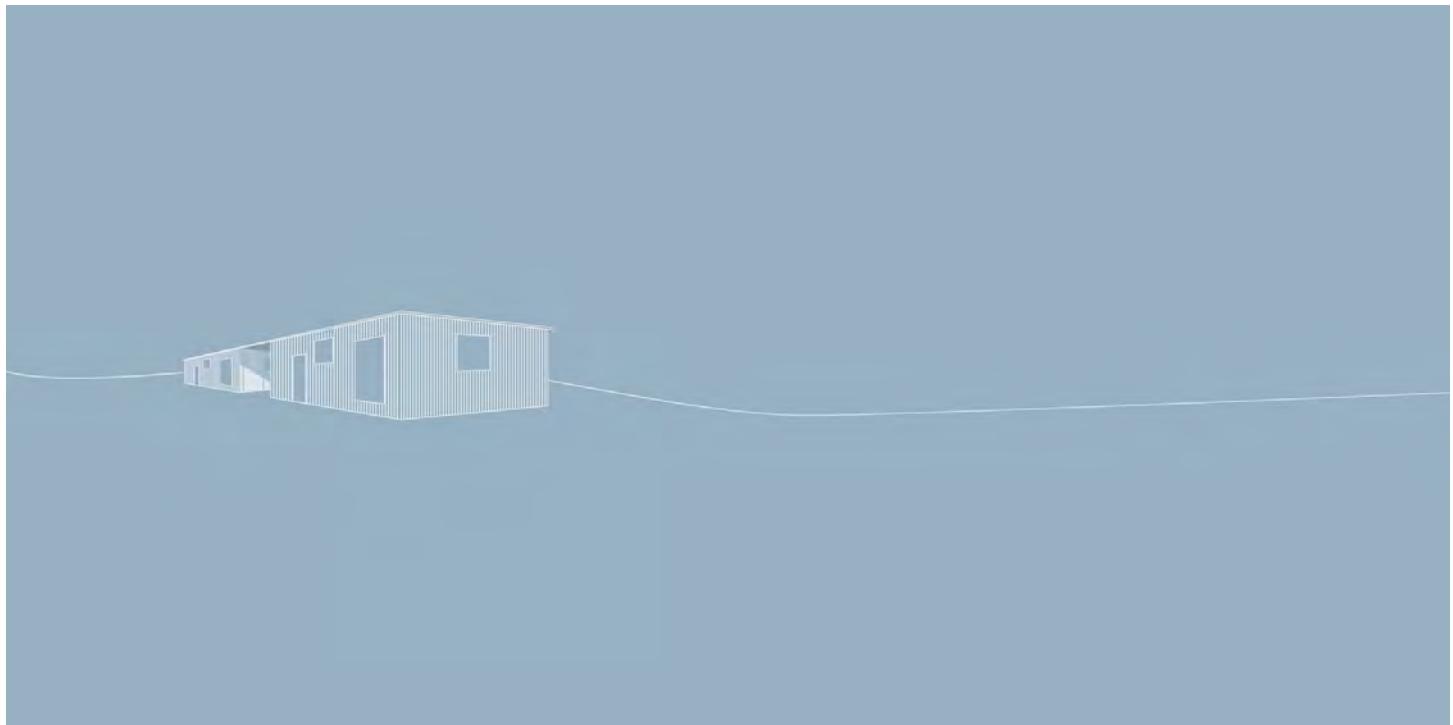


Sustainable interior finishes include maple and linoleum flooring, birch paneling, and low-VOC paints. The cabinets are made from mahogany and Plyboo—a Forest Stewardship Council–certified bamboo product.

061

Building orientation as well as sizing and placement of openings are critical for effective cross ventilation to help air circulate through the entire space.





Flat and Custom Roofs





MR House

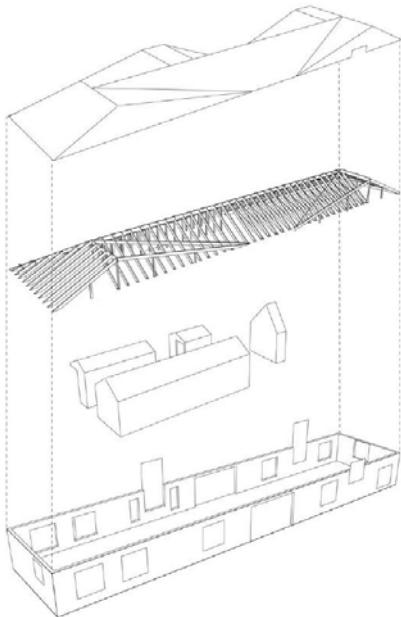
1,927 sq ft

MAPA

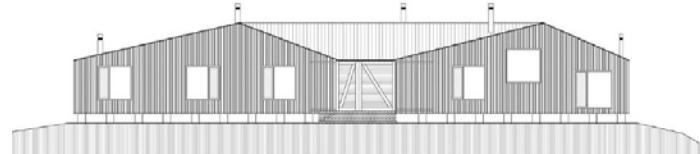
El Buchén, Maule, Chile

© MAPA

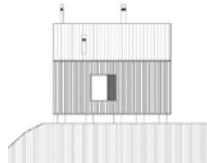
A clearing in a forested area in the Andes was the site chosen for the construction of an all-year-round shelter for a family. The site is an ancient woodland with difficult access. This context and the study of existing sheds found in the area determined the proportions and shape of the construction. As a result, MR House is a simple building where the roof acts as a shell protecting three habitable sections.



Exploded axonometric



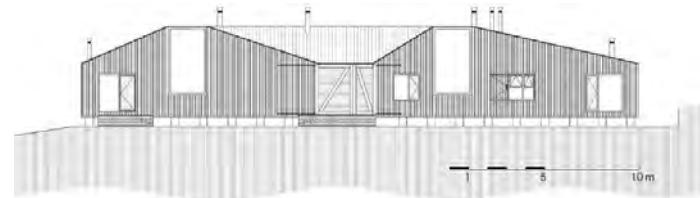
North elevation



East elevation



West elevation



South elevation

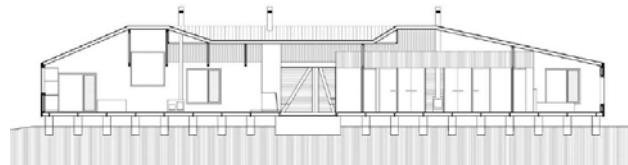
The shelter contains a series of spaces that progressively make the transition between exterior and interior.



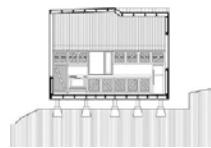
Section E-E'



Section F-F'



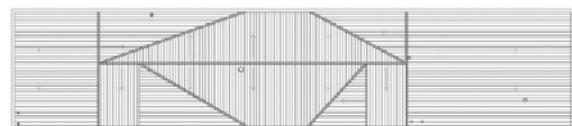
Section G-G'



Section A-A'



Section B-B'



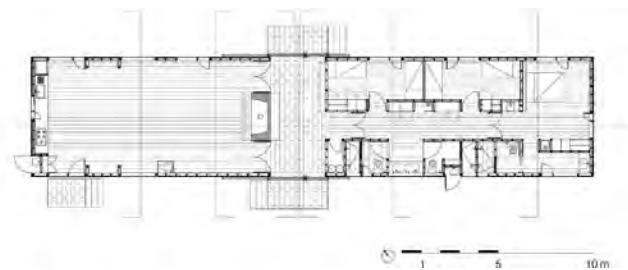
Roof plan



Section C-C'



Section D-D'



Floor plan



during warm weather and acting as an additional layer of thermal insulation during cold weather.





A large interior space under a pitched roof contains the living/dining area and kitchen and a playroom with a fireplace.

099

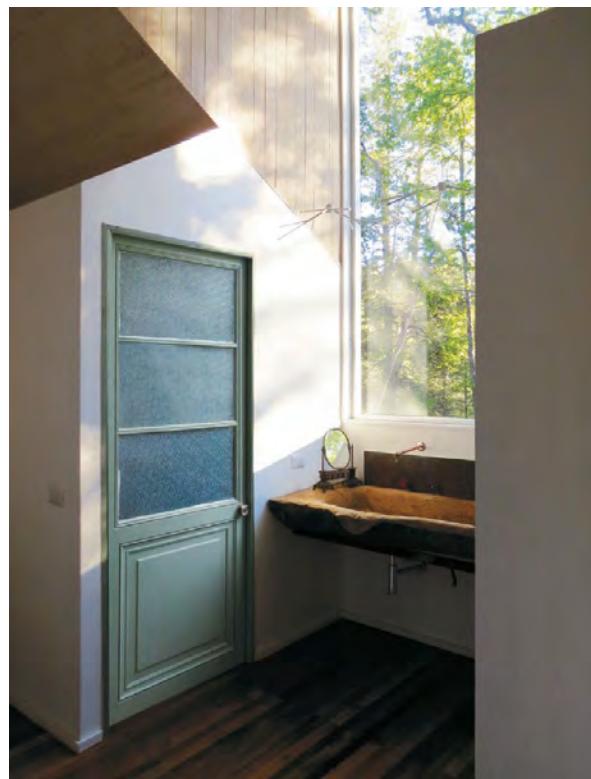
Board-formed concrete offers a fine-grained wood texture, which is very decorative. This concrete form imbues the space with an industrial look, while providing the warm tone of wood.





100

For a seasonal home, choose low-maintenance materials and finishes that are durable and age well. Decoration should be simple, but comfortable. Use sturdy, no-fuss materials to help maximize enjoyment of your vacation time.





Four-cornered Villa

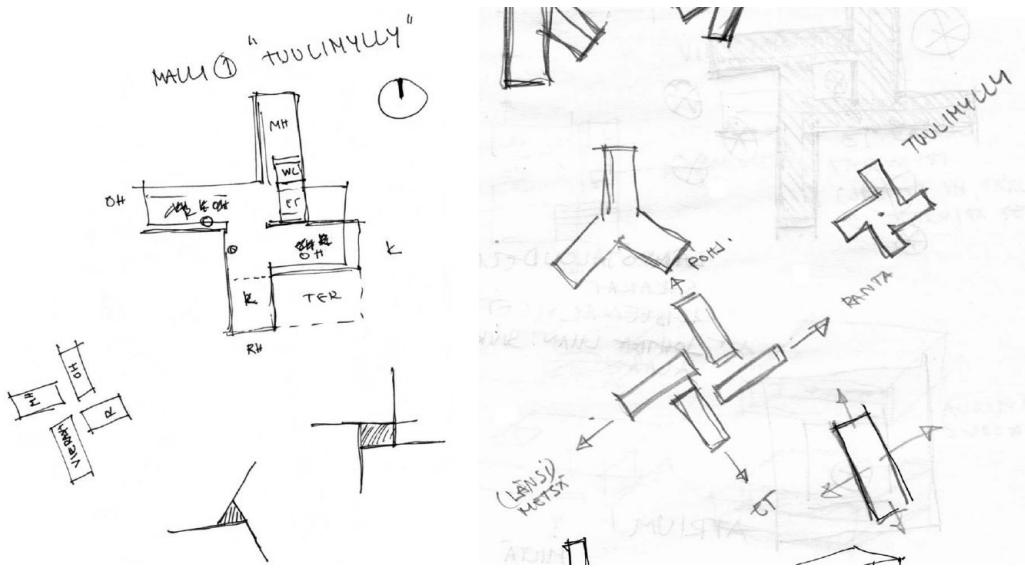
1,098 sq ft

Avanto Architects

Virrat, Finland

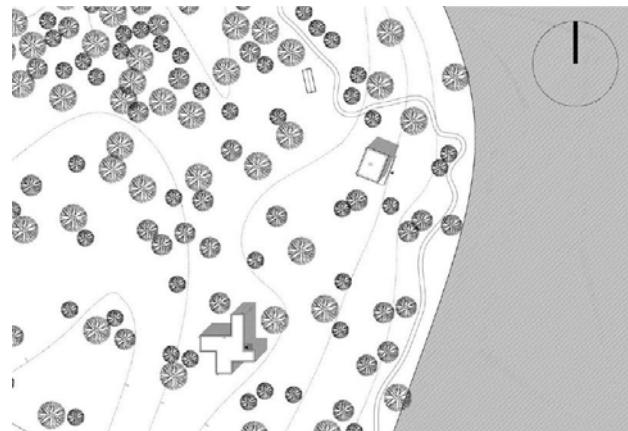
© Anders Portman and Martin Sommerschield/kuvio.com

This modern cabin is situated on a horseshoe-shaped island in a lake. Its walls are stained dark to merge with the trees of the surrounding landscape, making it almost invisible from a distance. This feature responds to a design intent on respecting the site's ecological character. The cabin's cruciform shape reaches toward four very different views, which can be seen from the living area in the center of the cabin. A sauna stands a few yards from the cabin, as a place for relaxation and contemplation.

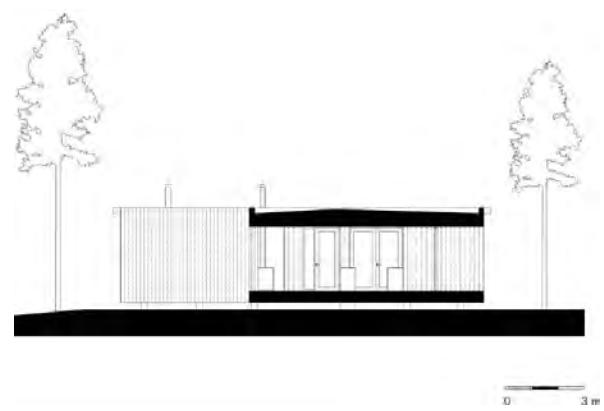


Preliminary design sketches

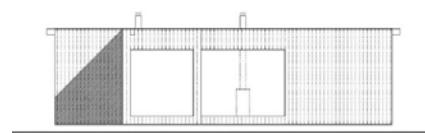
The cruciform shape creates a structure with four wings, all with a different view—thanks to a picture window capping each wing.



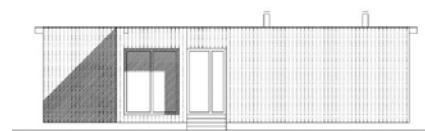
Site plan



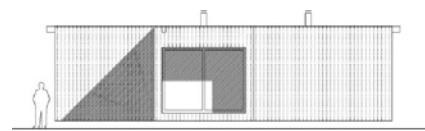
Section



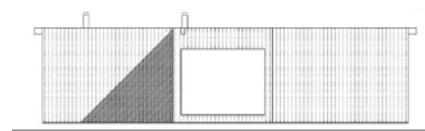
North elevation



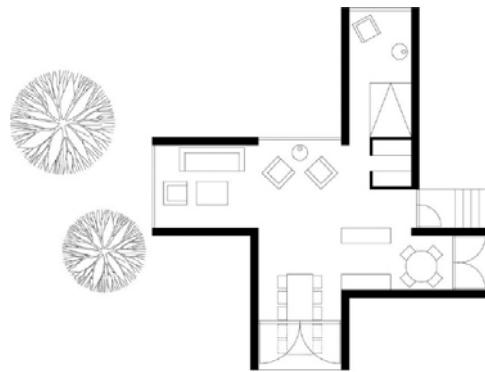
East elevation



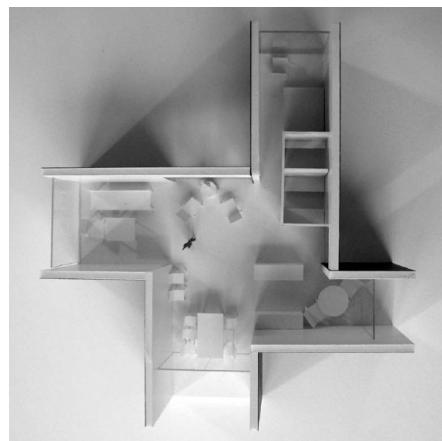
West elevation



South elevation



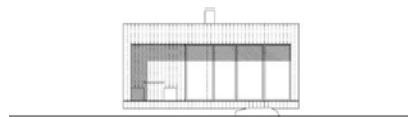
Cabin's floor plan



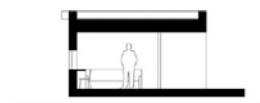
Top view of the cabin's scale model



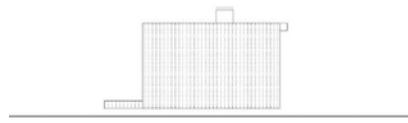
Sauna's floor plan



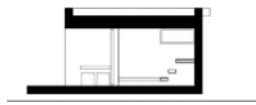
Sauna's east elevation



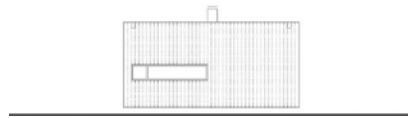
Section A-A through sauna



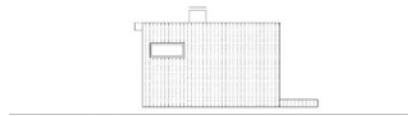
Sauna's north elevation



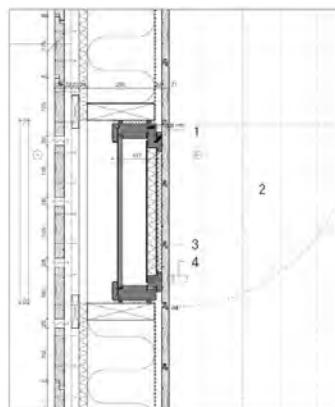
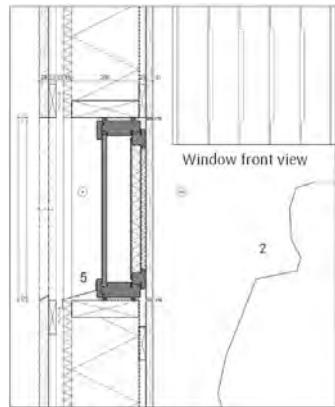
Section B-B through sauna



Sauna's west elevation

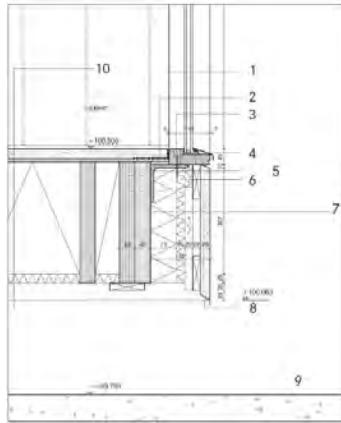


Sauna's south elevation

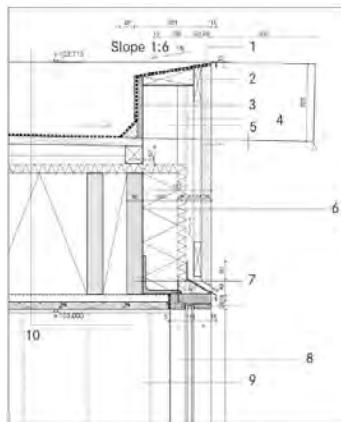


Ventilation hatch details

1. Hinge welded to 35 mm-long extensions
2. Ventilation hatch with hinged panel
3. Wood paneling over 22 mm layer of insulation
4. Handle on panel
5. Flashing



1. Wall paneling
2. Floor surface flush with window sill
3. Wood block glued to window frame to hide screw
4. Aluminum flashing
5. Steel angle window support
6. Additional thermal insulation at window sill
7. Wall assembly at window sill:
Exterior cladding panel 28 x 195 mm
Horizontal furring strips 22 x 100
Vertical furring strip
Fiberboard insulation panel 25 mm
Wood frame + insulation 100 mm
8. Beveled bottom drip edge
9. Land infill
10. Floor assembly:
Flooring finish
Plywood boards with taped seams
Glulam + wood fiber insulation 350 mm
Fiberboard insulation panel 25 mm
22 x 100 board
Crawl space



Clerestory details

1. Metal sheet
2. 50 x 150 blocking
3. Waterproof plywood
4. Screen
5. Metal gutter 50 x 100
6. Wall assembly:
 - Exterior cladding panel 28 x 195
 - Horizontal furring strips 22 x 100
 - Vertical furring strips 22 x 100
 - Fiberboard insulation panel 25 mm
 - Wood frame plus insulation 100 mm
 - Laminated wood joists
7. Window frame according to designer
8. Double glazed windows 6 plus 15 plus 6
9. Wall paneling
10. Roof assembly:
 - Bituminous waterproof membrane
 - Plywood sheathing 23 x 95 mm
 - Furring 50 x 50 at 600 mm o.c.
 - Air chamber (between 20 and 50 mm)
 - Fiberboard insulation panel 25 mm
 - Glulam plus wood fiber insulation 350 mm
 - Thermal insulation
 - Metal channel to allow for electrical conduits
 - Tongue-and-grove paneling 21 x 195 mm



101

Deep eaves protect the exterior of a building from the elements and contribute to the creation of an outdoor space as an extension of the interior.





102

The color white is part of the compositional forces that highlight form. Use various shades of white to create a space full of nuances and play with different textures to add depth, visual interest, and warmth.





103

Frameless windows are much in line with modern styles. Their minimal framework can be fully integrated into the ceiling, walls, and floor. This feature helps minimize the barrier between the interior and the exterior.





The design of the sauna is a reflection of the same design philosophy applied to the cabin. The large window and glass door leading to an outdoor deck include the landscape as part of the experience.





M1 House

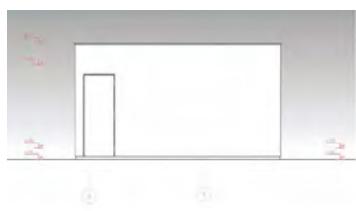
550 sq ft

Passion Smart Design Houses

Anywhere

© Passion Smart Design Houses

The design of the M series cabins is inspired by the passion fruit. A hard shell protects a stylish and comfortable interior. The structure is prebuilt in a workshop to achieve high-quality standards and assembled quickly on-site, often within two weeks. This process minimizes environmental impact. The roofline uses sunlight efficiently, absorbing warmth in winter and blocking it in summer. Low horizontal lines and large panoramic windows emphasize simplicity and an open-minded approach toward living.



Back elevation



Side elevations



Front elevation



Floor plan

- A. Terrace
- B. Entry
- C. Kitchen
- D. Lounge
- E. Toilet
- F. Shower
- G. Bedroom
- H. Sauna
- I. Mechanical room



Basic features diagram

1. ENERGY EFFICIENT

Heating and ventilation

Highly efficient heat ventilation (HRV)
 Heat pump for heating and cooling
 Solar water heating system
 Panel connectivity

2. GROOVY

Multimedia appliances

Preinstalled inside and outside speakers, receiver, TV, Internet ports

3. COOL

LED lights

All interior and exterior lights installed

4. NO WORRIES

Rainwater system

Piping from roof to rainwater drainage

5. NORDIC STANDARDS

Roof structure

2 layers SBS
 Ventilated cavity
 Vapor-permeable wind barrier
 Min. 300 mm mineral wool insulation
 Nail plate trusses withstanding snow loads up to 3 kN
 Finish: cross-laminated timber

6. DURABLE

Wall structure

Exterior cladding
 Ventilated cavity
 Vapor permeable wind barrier
 250 mm mineral wool insulation
 Timber frame structure

7. STRONG FOUNDATION

Floor structure

Interior finish: Concrete slab with under-floor heating
 Insulation up to 300 mm – EPS

8. LONGLASTING

Terrace

Oiled thermo-treated wood

9. LOW MAINTENANCE

Windows

Aluminum-clad wooden windows with UV protection triple-glazing units

10. RELAX

Fully furnished

Custom-made design furniture

11. EASY

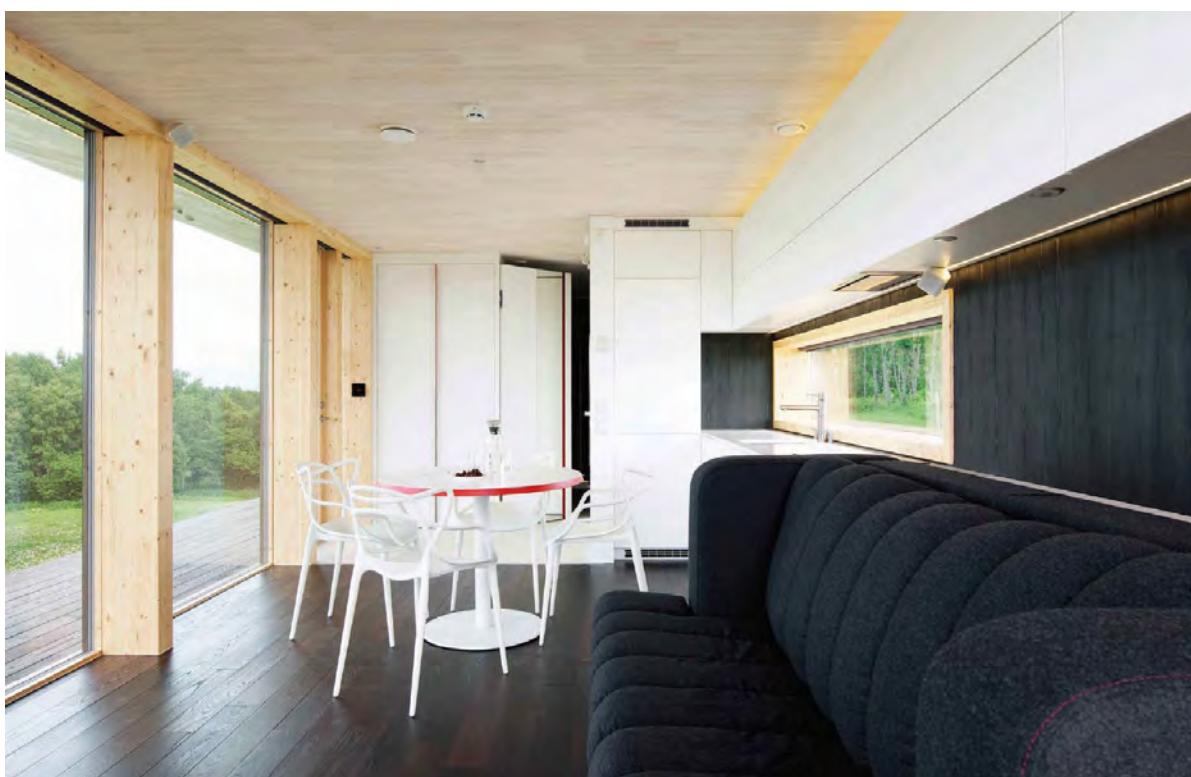
Sanitary ware and piping

All sanitary ware and piping preinstalled

12. INTELLIGENT

Smart home system

Automated controlling security, heating/cooling, lights, blinds, audio, CO₂, humidity



Fully equipped with the necessary appliances, planned to optimize the use of space, fitted with clever storage solutions, and completed with smart details and lighting ideas, the M1 cabin offers the utmost comfort with style.



104

Multifunctional furnishings offer flexibility, which is a valuable feature in compact construction. They help minimize the number of freestanding items that could interfere with moving comfortably around the space.





105

Built-in cabinets are designed to meet the storage needs of their users. They make the most of the available space, while simplifying lifestyle and adding comfort.







Nighthawk Retreat

1,686 sq ft

Egglesston|Farkas Architects

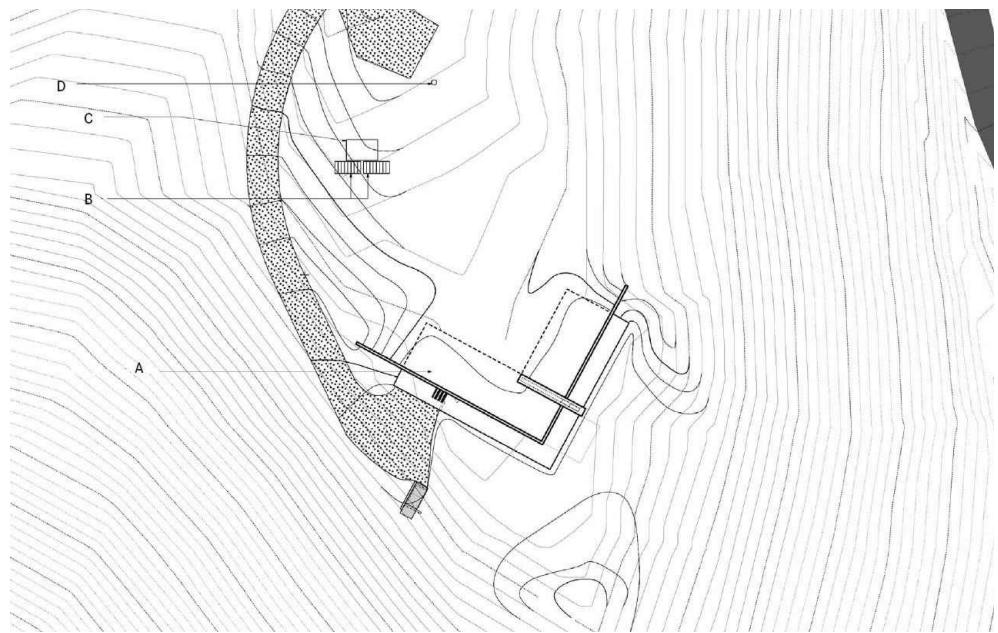
Eastern Cascades Foothills, Washington, United States

© Jim Van Gundy and owner

Windy, snowy winters and extremely hot, arid summers with occasional brush fires characterize the severe climate of the site where this concrete construction was built. Its remote location made public utility hookups impossible. But despite these inconveniences, the users of this vacation retreat find that the soothing seclusion and pleasurable connection with the natural environment are well worth any extra efforts.

106

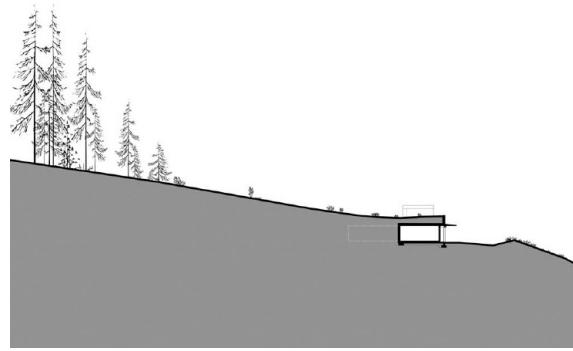
Deep overhangs provide shade to walls, doors, and windows. Net result: reducing summer temperatures inside, which improves comfort and saves energy.



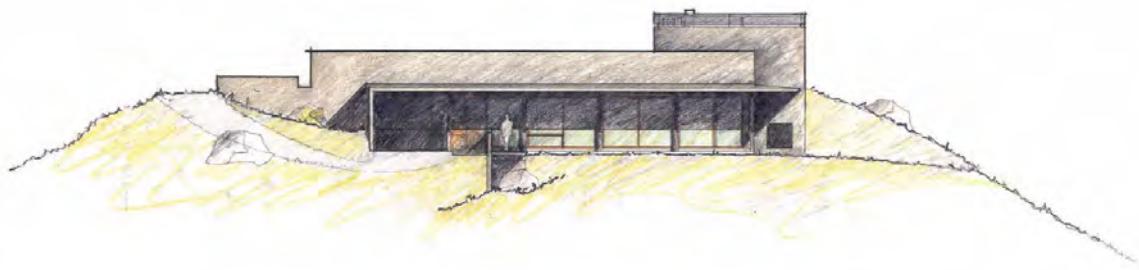
Site plan

- A. Earth sheltered house
- B. Solar array
- C. Power shed
- D. Well

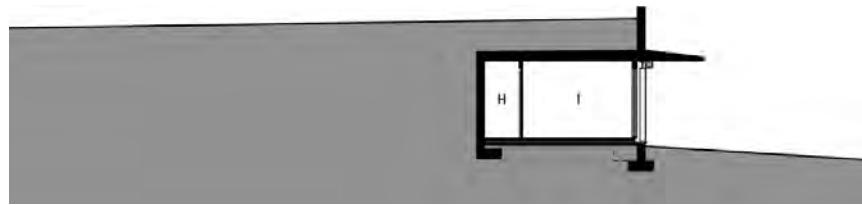
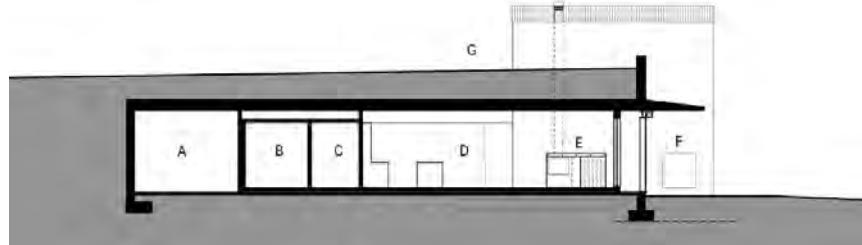
The site is off-grid, so solar electrical generation and energy conservation were critical to the success of the project.



Cross section



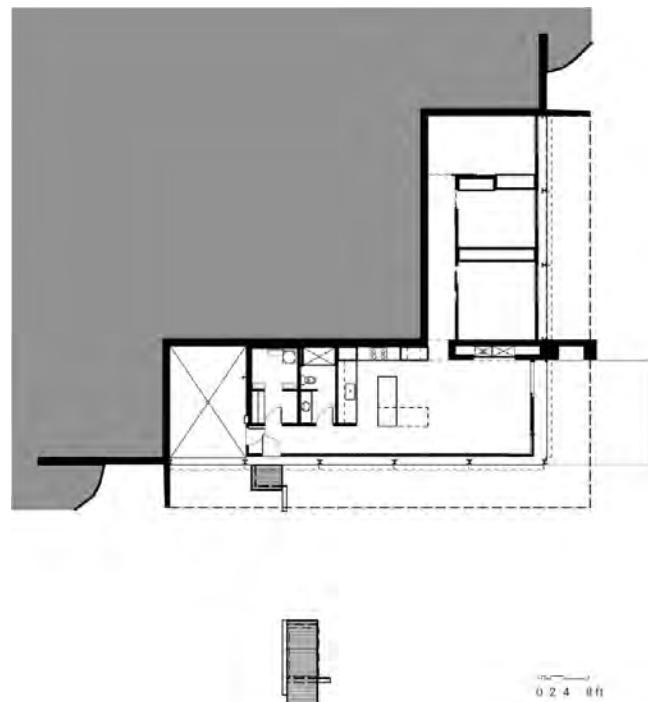
Southwest elevation



Sections

- A. Garage
- B. Mechanical / Mud room
- C. Bathroom
- D. Kitchen
- E. Great room
- F. Terrace
- G. Roofscape
- H. Hall
- I. Bedroom

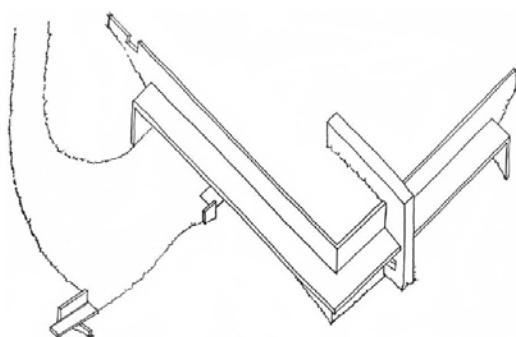
Earth-sheltered constructions have a considerable heat capacity, storing solar energy. Popular among supporters of sustainable architecture, earth sheltering reduces heat loss and maintains a constant indoor temperature.



Floor plan

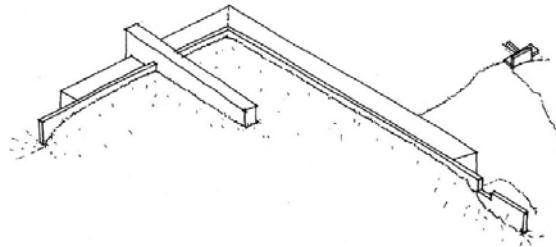


The concrete roof and retaining walls allowed the house to be buried under four feet of earth, offering insulation in the winter and cave-like cooling in the summer.

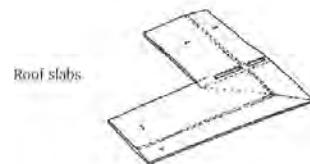
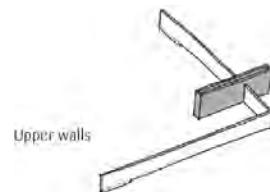


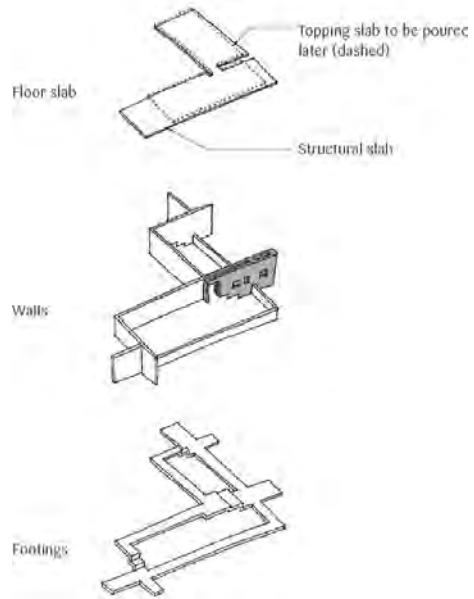
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Earth-sheltered houses use the ground as an insulating material, protecting the interior from extreme weather conditions. This makes the house energy efficient and low maintenance.



Conceptual design





Diagrams of construction components

The various planes that compose the house interlock to form a powerful geometric composition expressed both in the exterior and in the interior.

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Rolling metal shutters serve the dual purposes of forming a second skin offering additional thermal control as well as fire protection and security when the retreat is not in use.



The terrace is an extension of an interior living space. Create a comfortable area that can be suitable for relaxing and entertaining.





Weekend House

1,200 sq ft

David Jay Weiner, Architect

Rensselaer County, New York, United States

© Tony Morgan

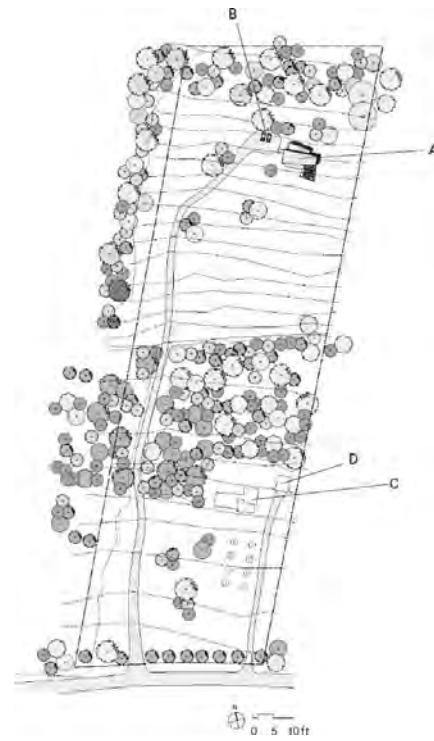
The house is conceived as a single sweeping volumetric “sheet,” evoking the folds of a Japanese kimono. The wrapping enclosure defines two major interior spaces: a living area extending to an enclosed porch, analogous to an *engawa* or “in-between space” found in traditional Japanese architecture, and a master bedroom suite with floor-to-ceiling windows. A concrete plinth elevates the house slightly above the ground, increasing the sense of lightness often found in Asian design.



The house is designed to be relatively inexpensive, both in construction and maintenance, and to have the compactness and interior sparseness akin to traditional Japanese architecture for relaxing and entertaining.

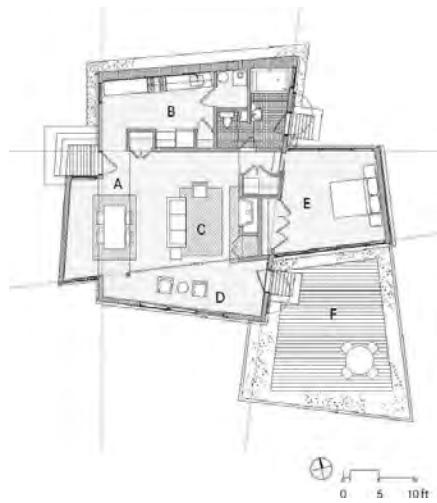


Materials include standard wood-frame construction with tongue-and-groove exterior cedar siding, poured-in-place concrete foundation, EPDM roofing membrane roof, aluminum-clad windows, painted gypsum-board interior partitions, and gravel driveway and a parking area.



Site plan

- A. New house
- B. Parking
- C. Existing house
- D. Existing garage



Floor plan

- A. Entrance
- B. Kitchen
- C. Dining/Living room
- D. Engawa
- E. Bedroom
- F. Deck

As much of the site as possible has been left untouched. During the summer, native wildflowers fill the landscape.

111

From an energy-efficient standpoint, high clerestory windows can be used as part of a passive solar strategy. The windows should be sized and placed to optimize solar heat gain.



112

An alternative to the popular freestandin
fuel use and a minimum of heat loss.



113

A successful wall system depends on t
window design, which may include parts

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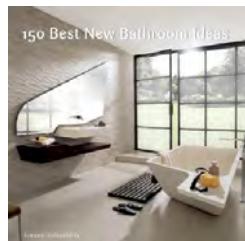
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